

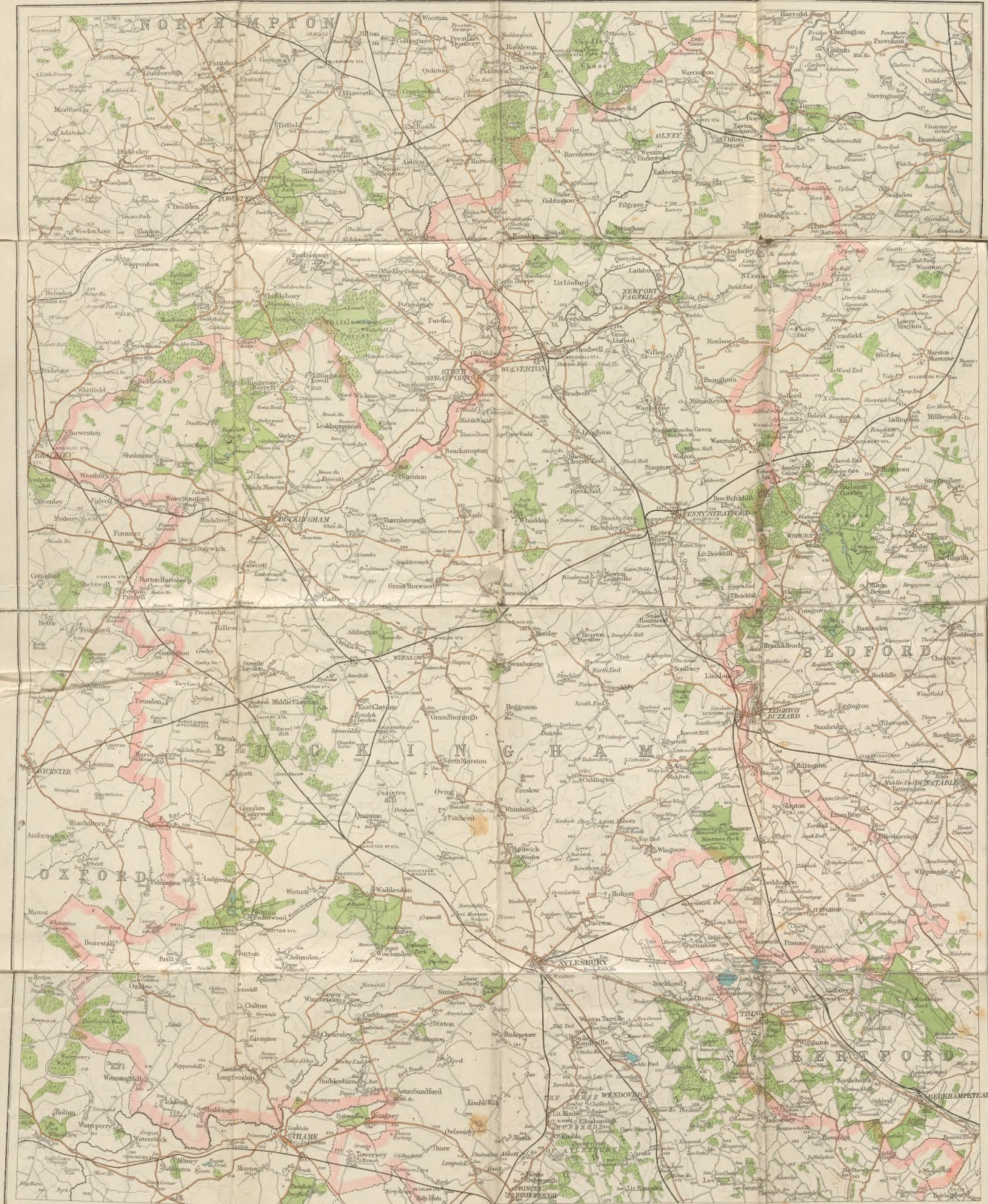
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HAND-BOOK  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE,  
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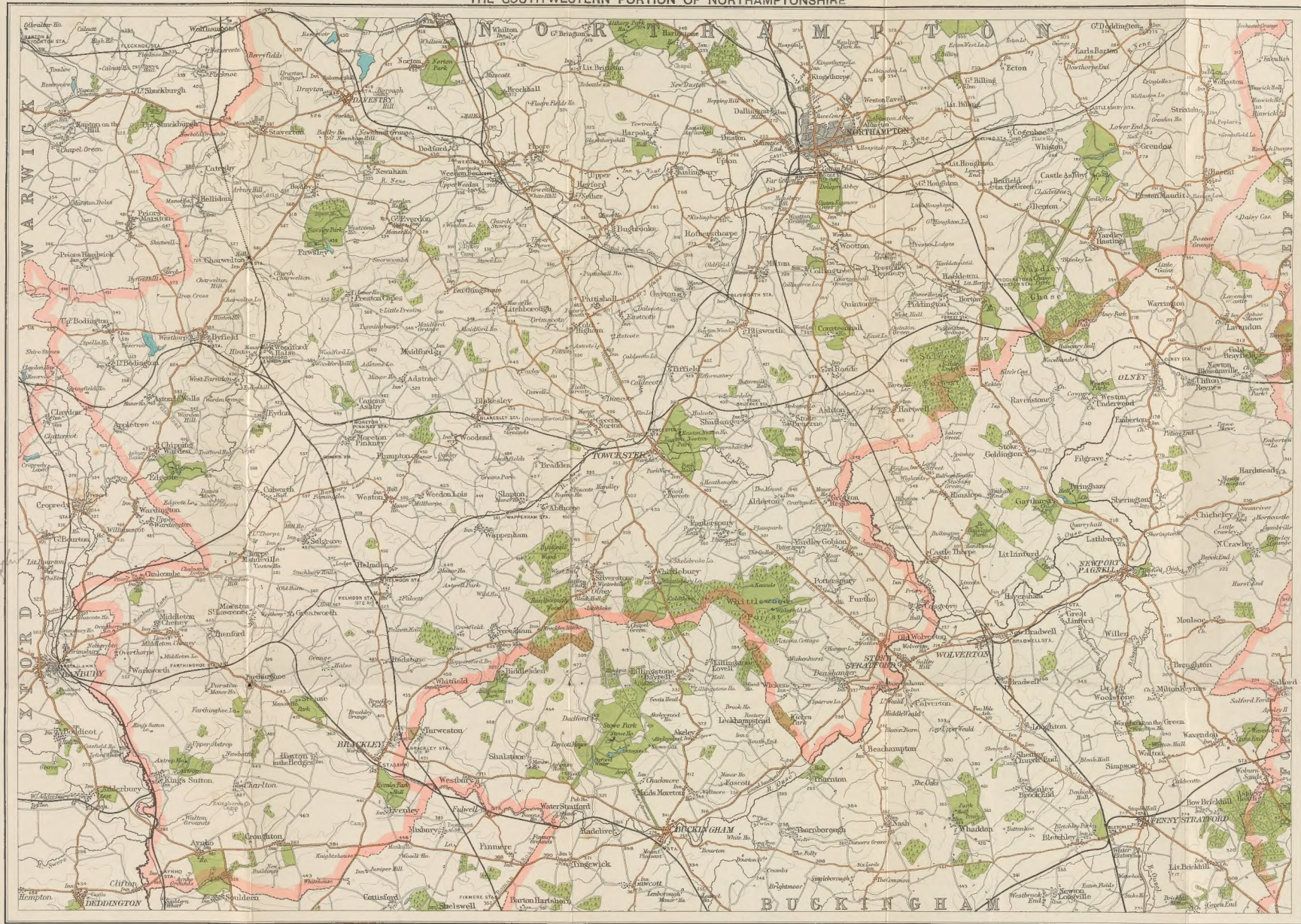
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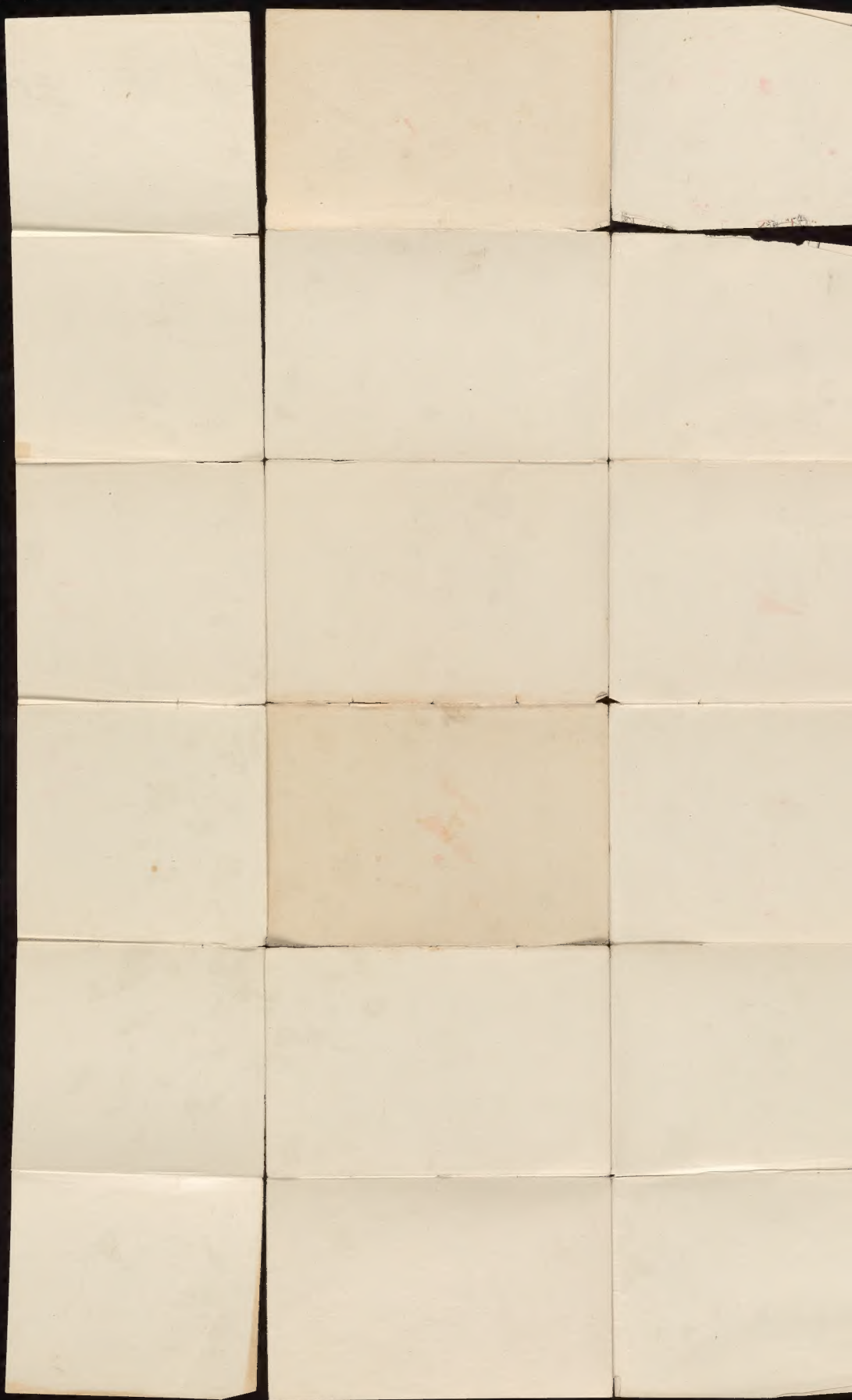
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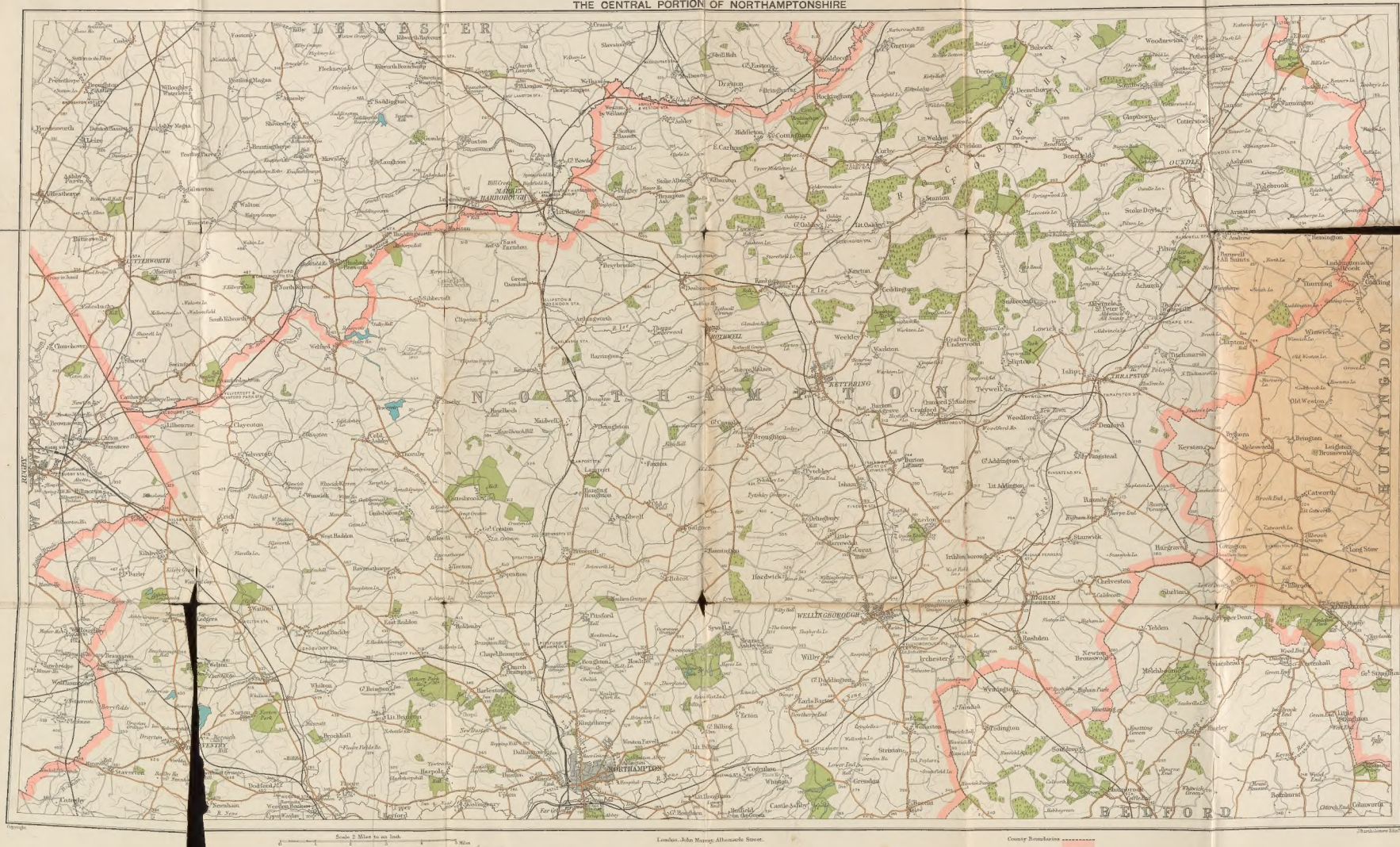
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HANDBOOK

FOR

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AND RUTLAND.







HANDBOOK  
FOR  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
AND  
RUTLAND.

SECOND EDITION.

WITH MAPS

LONDON: EDWARD STANFORD,  
12, 13, & 14, LONG ACRE, W.C.

1901.



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## P R E F A C E.

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THE New Edition of the Handbook for Northamptonshire and Rutland has been carefully revised and partly rewritten. In carrying out this work the Editor has been so fortunate as to obtain the cordial co-operation of those who possess an intimate knowledge of the counties.

It would be impossible to mention all those from whom valuable assistance has been received, but he must record his special obligations to Mr. J. Alfred Gotch, F.S.A., of Kettering, and to Mr. Christopher A. Markham, F.S.A., of Northampton. Both gentlemen are authorities on the architectural and archæological features of Northamptonshire.

Mr. William Grey, of Moreton Pinkney Manor, who has made a special study of the Washington Memorials at Sulgrave, Great and Little Brington, Islip, and Thrapston, has kindly supplied information which will doubtless be of special interest to American visitors.

Mr. C. Dack has revised the portion relating to Peterborough and its Cathedral, and the Rev. Leonard Addison, of Gretton, has given material help. To these gentlemen the Editor gratefully acknowledges the aid they have so kindly rendered.

The best thanks of the Editor are also due to almost every rector and vicar in the two counties for the valuable information which they have so readily given respecting



their various parishes, and to the owners of the principal country houses who have courteously supplied particulars respecting them.

The various Routes describing the places of interest follow the different lines of Railway, but at the end of each a short *resumé* of the route by road has been added for the benefit of pedestrians and cyclists, and a map of the counties on the scale of half-an-inch to the mile, admirably adapted for their use, is a new feature in this Edition.

Every effort has been made to render the Handbook accurate; but it is hoped that any mistakes or omissions may be notified to Mr. Edward Stanford, 12, 13, and 14, Long Acre, London, W.C.

H. M. C.

*June, 1901.*



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## PERIODS OF ARCHITECTURAL STYLES.

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Saxon—before 1066. Prior to the Conquest.

Norman—1066 to 1189. William I. to Henry II.

Gothic:—

Early English or Lancet—1189 to 1307. Richard I. to Edward I.

Decorated—1307 to 1377. Edward II. and Edward III.

Perpendicular—1377 to 1547. Richard II. to Henry VIII.

Transition = the transition from one style to another which occurred during the reigns of Richard I., Edward I., and Edward III. respectively.

Renaissance, including Elizabethan, Jacobean, Queen Anne, and Georgian—from 1547. Elizabeth to Victoria.



# SECTION I.

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

### INTRODUCTION.

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#### I. GENERAL CHARACTER AND STATISTICS.

*a. Size, Boundaries, and Population.*—The county of Northampton, the “midmost of the midlands,” extends in a wedge-like form, three times as long as it is broad, for seventy miles from N.E. to S.W.; from Crowland Bridge, where it joins Lincolnshire, to Aynhoe, where it has Oxfordshire for a neighbour. The breadth varies, but is nowhere greater than twenty-six miles. “It bordereth,” says Fuller, “on more counties than any other in England, being nine in number. . . . It is as fruitful and populous as any in England, insomuch that sixteen several towns, with their churches, have at one view been discovered therein, by my eyes (other men have discovered two-and-thirty), which I confess none of the best; and God grant that those who are sharper sighted may hereafter never see fewer. Sure I am that there is as little waste ground in this as in any county in England (no mosses, mears, fells, heaths (Whitering but a beauty spot), which elsewhere fills so many shires with much emptiness); Northamptonshire being an apple, without core to be cut out, or rind to be pared away.”—*Worthies*. What Fuller wrote of Northamptonshire in the middle of the seventeenth century is still true, or rather has become more true. There is little unproductive land; the agriculture of the county is uniformly good; and the population is considerable for the area. The county contains 641,992 statute acres, of which 580,000 are arable and pasture. The population in 1901 is 338,064. (The census of 1801 showed a population of 131,525.) Those parts of Northamptonshire not included in the arable or pasture lands, represent ancient forest or modern plantation.

The boundaries of the county appear to be somewhat arbitrary, although the Cherwell in the S.W., the Welland for a considerable distance on the N.W., the Ouse and the Towe in the extreme S.E. [Northamptonshire.]

[2] *Introduction.—General Character and Statistics.* Sect. I.

corner, and the Nene between Fotheringhay and Peterborough, become the limits of the shire. The arbitrary character of the boundaries is due partly to the want of marked natural features, and in a greater degree, as is probable, to the circumstances under which the shire was first formed (see *post*, *History*).

The municipal boroughs, with estimated populations, are Northampton (76,000), the city of Peterborough (30,870), Daventry (3,780), Brackley (2,460), and Higham Ferrers (2,540). Other important towns are Kettering (28,653), Wellingborough (18,410), Towcester (2,775), and Oundle (2,404).

During the last decade several villages have largely increased in population, and are now under the management of Urban District Councils, such as Rushden (12,460), Finedon (4,129), Rothwell (4,193), Desborough (3,573), and Raunds (3,811).

Adjoining Northampton are the following parishes, also under Urban District Councils, with populations estimated in 1899: Far Cotton (4,265), St. James' End (6,500), and Kingsthorpe (13,905).

For Parliamentary representation the county is divided into four divisions, North, South, East, and Mid, and returns one member for each. Northampton is the county town, and the seat of the County Council, with the exception of the "Soke of Peterborough," which has a separate Council.

The whole of the county is within the diocese of Peterborough.

**b. Communications.**—All the main lines of railway from London to the North pass through the county. The main line of the London and North-Western Railway enters the county just before reaching Roade Station, and passes Blisworth and Weedon to Rugby. From Roade there is another route to Rugby, *viâ* Northampton. From Blisworth the East and West Junction Railway and the Banbury line branch off, *viâ* Towcester to Stratford-on-Avon and Banbury respectively, and also the branch line to Northampton; and there is another branch at Weedon to Daventry and Leamington. A line of the London and North-Western Railway proceeds from Northampton along the valley of the Nene to Peterborough, and another from Northampton to Market Harborough. The line of the London and North-Western Railway from Rugby to Peterborough skirts the whole of the northern border of the county. The Great Central Railway passes through the western portion, having connections with the Great Western Railway and the East and West Junction Railway between Culworth and Woodford; and the Great Western Railway, to Banbury and Birmingham, just enters the extreme south-western border. The main line of the Midland Railway from the South enters the county at Irchester, and passes Wellingborough to Kettering, where it forks off to Market Harborough and to Manton. At Wellingborough there is a small branch to Higham Ferrers, and at Kettering another branch line to Thrapston and Huntingdon. The Midland Railway also runs from Peterborough to Stamford. The main line of



**NORTHANTS. Introduction.—General Character and Statistics.** [3]

Great Northern Railway passes through Peterborough and the extreme north-eastern end of the county. At Peterborough there are three branches, to Stamford *viâ* Wansford, to Wisbech, and to Spalding.

**c. Rivers and Canals.**—The rivers of Northamptonshire are all “natives.” Independent of all other counties, it distributes its own streams in every direction, from the two great watersheds, one lying between Brackley and Banbury, whence flow the Cherwell, the Ouse, and the Leam; while from Naseby height the Nene, the Welland, and the Avon flow in opposite directions into the Wash and the Bristol Channel. With the exception of the Nene, however, none of the rivers are navigable within the county.

The Grand Junction Canal passes through the western side of the county, alongside the London and North-Western Railway, beyond Weedon Station, where it turns west to Braunston. It has branches to Stoney Stratford, where it joins the Oxford Canal, and to Northampton, where it communicates with the river Nene. The Grand Union Canal branches off from the Grand Junction near Daventry, and joins the Leicester Canal.

**d. Industries and Manufactures.**—Although more than half the county is permanent pasture, extensively used for grazing, still a large portion of the land is arable, especially rich in the fens around Peterborough, and agriculture is the principal industry. The breeding and fattening of cattle and of sheep are among the chief objects of the Northamptonshire farmer; and the “Shorthorns” of Althorp and Burghley are widely famous. The most common breed of sheep is the improved Leicester. Lime-stone and lime are largely raised, and iron-ore is extensively worked; there are also some slate quarries. At Weldon the ancient stone quarries, producing an excellent free stone, are now in full activity again.

At Northampton, Kettering, Wellingborough, Raunds, Rushden, and other towns, the chief manufactures are boot and shoe making. For these Northampton and the neighbourhood were famous from an early period; and there is a saying that “you know when you are within a mile of Northampton by the noise of the cobblers’ lap-stones.” Since the time when Fuller wrote that the town “may be said to stand chiefly on other men’s legs,” the trade has enormously increased; and the manufacturers have now the most extensive business of this sort in the world. Contracts are taken for the supply of the army, of the colonies, and of the principal markets throughout England. The trade is carried on not only in Northampton, but in every town and village along the eastern border and in the centre of the county.

**e. General Features.**—The principal watersheds of central England fall within the boundaries of Northamptonshire; and the western heights of the county overlook the broad central plain of the midlands. This western and south-western border is broken, varied, and pic-

turesque, although the hills nowhere rise for more than 700 or 800 feet above the sea. (Naseby is 648 ft.; Arbury Hill, near the source of the Leam, is 734 ft.) But the eastern and central parts of Northamptonshire are not so picturesque. Trees, however, abound except in a few districts, notably east of Wellingborough, and the remains of the ancient forests met with at Yardley, Geddington, Brigstock, King's Cliffe and the neighbourhood of Rockingham. Altogether Northamptonshire has a quiet beauty that is very refreshing, although in the neighbourhood of Peterborough it is very flat.

## II. GEOLOGY.

The outlines of Northamptonshire scenery, and the form of ground throughout the county, result of course, from its geological character. The whole of the county lies within the great belt of *Jurassic* (oolitic and liassic) formations which extends across England from the coast of Dorsetshire to the Humber, and thence to the north coast of Yorkshire. This belt is nowhere characterised by very lofty hills; but it is by no means destitute of picturesque scenery, and is nowhere altogether level, although many portions of it are low, and unmarked by any special features. In Northamptonshire it rises into high table-land at Naseby, and along the border of Warwickshire; a table-land which, as has already been said, forms the great watershed of central England. The Jurassic belt (which, in geological series, lies between the Trias, or New Red (below), and the Weald clay and Cretaceous deposits (above), consists in Northamptonshire of the *Lias*, which is the great basal formation, with a thickness of about 850 feet (Lower Lias, 650 ft., Middle Lias or Marlstone, 30 ft., Upper Lias from 150 to 200 ft.), and the *Oolites*. The Lias and Oolites represent the whole range of secondary formations in the county. But the high ground is "frequently capped with a thick bed of *Boulder clay* and *Glacial gravels*, containing fragments from nearly the whole series of Primary and Secondary rocks, Liassic, Kimeridge clay, and Oxford clay fossils being frequently found beautifully preserved in masses of septaria. The *valley gravels* abound with large tusks and teeth of *Elephas antiquus*, *E. primigenius*, and an *Elephas* of an intermediate species; and teeth of *Rhinoceros tichorinus*, bones of *Hippopotamus major*, teeth of *Equus caballus* and *E. fossilis*, the core of a horn and part of a frontal bone of *Bison priscus*, and a head of *Bos primigenius* have also been found. The peaty fluviatile bed above the gravel contains at its base numerous remains of the aboriginal small ox, *Bos longifrons*, red deer, horse, wild boar, with human skulls, &c."—*S. Sharp*

The *Lias*, which forms the foundation of the whole district, is exposed in the valleys. In the N.W. portion of the county the *Lower Lias* prevails. But the Liassic formations are nowhere so important as the Oolitic, in the beds of which occur the mineral wealth—ironstone, building-stone, and slate—of Northamptonshire.



The clay of the *Upper Lias* is much worked for brick-making, and there are large brickworks at Kettering, Wellingborough, and Corby. "This clay abounds with palæontological remains, such as those of large *Ichthyosauri* and *Teleosauri*, *Ammonites* and *Belemnites*, *Gryphæa*, *Astrea* and other bivalves. It has also yielded an unique crustacean, a clawless lobster (like a large prawn), *Peneus Sharpii*."—*S. S.* The *Middle Lias* is an abundant water-bearing formation, and from this, by a well 168 ft. deep, the Water Company of Northampton furnishes to the town a copious supply of pure and not hard water. It is characterised by the presence of *Rhynchonella tetrædra*, very large *Pecten æquivalvis*, &c."—*Id.*

The *Inferior Oolite*, which rests on the Upper Lias, contains, first, the beds of Northampton sand, in which is the Ironstone rock, and the so-called "Lower Estuarine" series; and then beds of Lincolnshire Limestone (so called because traversing Rutland, and extending into Lincolnshire, it there attains its greatest thickness), and Collyweston slate.

The aggregate thickness of the Northampton sand is about 80 feet; and it is the lower division which yields the iron ore, which has been worked from about the year 1850, for which the county has now become famous. The ironstone occurs in its greatest thickness in the neighbourhood of Northampton. It is quarried largely at Duston, Blisworth, Brixworth, Gayton, and Stow-Nine-Churches to the W. of Northampton; and at Cogenhoe, Wellingborough, Finedon, Woodford, Cranford, Glendon, Cransley, Corby, and other places E. and N.E. of Northampton. It ranges in this section as far as Stamford, where it is quarried on the estate of the Marquis of Exeter. Throughout the county about 20,000 tons of the ore are excavated weekly, yielding nearly on an average 40 per cent. of pig-iron. The ironstone, it should be said, is of the same character as that of the Cleveland and Middlesborough district in Yorkshire; where it is found, not in the Oolitic series, but in the marlstone of the Middle Lias. Both formations, however, belong to the same great Jurassic belt. It is to be noted that, although it is certain that the ironstone of both Yorkshire and Northamptonshire had been recognised by the Romans, and had been worked by them, and afterwards during much of the mediæval period, it nevertheless lay neglected in both counties from the middle of the fifteenth century, and its extent and value were altogether unknown until about the year 1850, when there was a simultaneous re-discovery of its importance. In Northamptonshire the opening of the mines, or quarries, as they should rather be called, is due to the energy of the late S. H. Blackwell, of Dudley. He was undoubtedly the first person who made use of the ore. Much building-stone, easily worked and richly coloured, is also raised from the beds of this lower division. "They are highly fossiliferous, and have yielded many species not known in other districts; among these are—a starfish, *Stellaster Sharpii*, and the bivalves *Lima Sharpiana*, *L. Dustonensis*, *L. Deltoida*, *L. Rodburgensis*, and a large *Lima* allied

to *L. Grandis*. There have also been found *Trigonia Sharpiana*, a tooth and pelvic bone of *Megalosaurus*, and a dorsal scale of an undescribed species of *Teleosaurus*.”—*S. S.*

The upper division of the Northampton sand consists of a nearly white siliceous sand, frequently intercalated with clay; sometimes sufficiently indurated to constitute a good building-stone. This is the “Lower Estuarine” series, and, “as indicated by the presence of plant-remains, much drifted wood, certain bivalve and univalve fossils, and by the frequent occurrence of ripple-marked surfaces, it had partly an estuarine and partly a littoral original.”

Above the Northampton sands there occurs, at Colleyweston and Easton, a slaty bed, which is largely used in the district,—the slate having formed, from an early period, the prevalent roofing material of the locality. Above, again, are the so-called Lincolnshire limestones, the characteristic stone of the northern division of the county north of the river Nene. “The lower beds are for the most part marly and soft, and occasionally supply a pure, cream-white stone, well adapted and much used for interior domestic work and for carved work in churches. Higher beds yield good rough durable building-stone, and are traversed by a very shelly and partially crystalline bed, the stone of which, taking a good polish, has been termed the ‘Stamford marble,’ and is very ornamental for chimney-pieces. The whole of these beds are quarried extensively for lime-burning, the lime produced being of excellent quality.”—*S. S.* The beds above these are those of the *Ketton freestone* and the *Barnack rag*. Both of these are famous building-stones, well known and used from a very remote period. The *Ketton* stone is not very fossiliferous, but has yielded the characteristic forms—*Terebratula fimbria*, *Rhynchonella spinosa*, *R. Crossii*, *Pholadomya fidicula*, *P. Zietenii*, *Trigonia hemisphærica*, *Pterocera Bentleyi*, *Natica Leckhamptonensis*, *Cidaris Fowleri*, *C. Wrightii*, numerous fine corals, *Aroides Stutterdi*, and other plants. The *Barnack rag* is very shelly, and some beds seem to be composed almost entirely of shells agglutinated together by a calcareous cement. The quarries at *Barnack* have been exhausted for nearly four centuries, and the stone is not worked elsewhere.

The *Great Oolite*, which succeeds the *Inferior Oolite*, is divided into the *Upper Estuarine* series, *Great Oolite limestone*, *Great Oolite Clay* and *Cornbrash*. The lowest beds are ferruginous and argillaceous, and are rich in fossils. The clays have yielded remains of a gigantic saurian, the *Cetiosaurus*. Above come limestone beds, the stone from one of which, at *Alwalton*, near *Peterborough*, takes a good polish. “The detached slender columns of the beautiful *Early English* west front of *Peterborough Cathedral* were composed of this marble; but, they having become decomposed from atmospheric action, another material has been substituted.” From a bed of this *Great Oolite limestone* at *Blisworth* two examples have been obtained of a fish not found elsewhere—*Pholidophorus Flesheri*. The bed at *Kingsthorpe* has yielded a fine cone of a pandanaceous plant, allied to



the screw-pines of Norfolk Island; and in the neighbourhood of Oundle has been found an elegant little star-fish, having five attenuated and tortuous rays, which has been named *Ophiurella Griesbachii*.

The limestone of the Great Oolite occurs in the middle of the county and in the southern division, and generally caps the highlands. "The Forest Marble, as a hard rock, only occurs in the neighbourhood of Peterborough, and over a very limited area. The Cornbrash crops out from under the Oxford Clay, on the southern escarpment of the Nene Valley; ranging in from Bedfordshire at a point upon the boundary of the county near Rushden; and extends, by Oundle, nearly to Peterborough. In like manner, it crops out, north of the Nene near Sudborough, extending by Lowick to the Aldwinckes, and reappearing upon many escarpments near Oundle. It also caps the high grounds north of the Addingtons and Woodford, at Islip, at Bulwick, at Upton (near Castor); occurs at a lower level at Helpstone, and is the surface rock over a large area to the north and north-west of Peterborough. The Oxford clay overlies and is almost conterminous with the Cornbrash, where the latter crops out upon the southern escarpment of the Nene Valley, and it spreads out over a considerable area of elevated land far into Bedfordshire. Considerable patches of it also occur in the same elevated position to the north of the Aldwinckes, and to the north and west of Oundle; while in the neighbourhood of Peterborough it occupies only the low grounds, and spreads out over the great level of the Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire Fens."—S. S.

The Oxford Clay, the highest representative of the Oolites in the county, yields numerous ammonites, belemnites, large oysters, saurians (including the huge *Pliosaurus*), and masses of wood converted into jet.

### III. HISTORY.

Northamptonshire is not in itself, nor does it form part of, one of those divisions of England which, from natural position, and from a consequent course of events, have a marked history of their own. Such districts are Devon and Cornwall, representing the British kingdom of Damnonia; the isolated and strongly Teutonic counties of Norfolk and Suffolk; and perhaps the whole of ancient Northumbria. The shire of Northampton is an artificial division, and the events which have taken place in it might almost as well have happened in any other part of England. Those events, however, are in many ways noticeable; and the county forms part of a district the old language of which has influenced, in a very remarkable manner, the development of modern English.

The whole of what is now Northamptonshire seems to have been, in the British period, although occupied by the Coritani, under the control of the Iceni, the most powerful tribe of Eastern Britain. Of this primitive time, however, there are few existing traces. Under

the Romans great portions of the county, and especially the valley of the Nene, seem to have been well populated. The whole of that valley, even when apart from the lines of ancient roads, contains Roman relics—foundations of villas, speculative mounds, and castra. The river itself seems to have served as a highway; and at Castor, near Peterborough, there was, besides a large station (on the line of the Ermine Street), a very extensive pottery, carried on over the whole surrounding country. The Castor "ware" was in request throughout the greater part of Roman Britain. Two great roads, either formed or adopted by the Romans, the Watling Street and the Ermine Street, crossed what is now Northamptonshire; and, besides that at Castor, there were at least three important stations, at Ircchester, Towcester, and Lilbourne. (For these Roman remains, see *Antiquities*.)

With the Teutonic conquest of this part of Britain our interest greatly increases. What is now known as Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire, and Huntingdonshire, and probably some parts of neighbouring counties (it is impossible to trace the boundaries with certainty) was occupied by the Middle Angles, whose settlement was one of those out of which the Mercian kingdom was created by Penda and his immediate predecessors. (*Stubbs*, 'Const. Hist.,' i. 109.) However ancient may be the name scir or shire, it was not applied to any one of the five regions (Lindsey, Hwiccia, Mercia proper, Middle Anglia, and South Anglia) from which Mercia was formed. The whole of Middle Anglia was, in the ninth century, overrun by the Danes, and was more or less brought under their control. The treaty of Alfred and Gunthrum (A.D. 878) limited the extent of the Danish occupation southward; "upon the Thames, along the Lea to its source, then right to Bedford, and then upon the Ouse to Watling Street." The Watling Street crosses Northamptonshire in a direct line from Stony Stratford through Towcester, to Cross-in-Hand, near Lutterworth; so that by far the greater portion of the county remained within Danish territory—the Denalagu, or Danelagh. But afterwards Edward the Elder (901–965) and his sister, Æthelflæd, the "Lady of Mercia," after many struggles, either expelled the Danes from Middle Anglian territory, or compelled them to submit themselves to their authority. It was apparently after this reconquest that the division of this part of England into shires took place. The name is not before found applied to any portion of Middle Anglia. The "province" (if it is to be so called) had been dependent ecclesiastically, first on Leicester (one of Archbishop Theodore's subdivisions—the see existed, with a short interval, from A.D. 680 to 869), and afterwards on Dorchester in Oxfordshire, to which place the Leicester see was removed. Hence, when the see was again removed, after the Conquest, from Dorchester to Lincoln, the shires which had formed Middle Anglia became dependent on that diocese, the most extensive and unwieldy in England.

It is impossible to trace the causes which led to the defining of the



Middle Anglian shires within their present boundaries. They are for the most part unmarked by any natural necessity; except where the course of a river, as that of the Welland on the N.W. of Northamptonshire, and the Ouse for a very brief space on the S. of the same county, has been occasionally followed. The boundaries of all these shires are very irregular; perhaps because, in determining them, it may have been necessary to follow the outlines of certain properties or settlements. This was apparently the reason why the great monastic house of Peterborough, which had from a very early period much land in the valley of the Nene, was included in Northamptonshire. Each of the Middle Anglian shires is grouped round its capital, as round an acknowledged and convenient centre, and each takes its name from this capital. Thus Northampton, or "Hampton" as it is called in the Saxon Chronicle, gives its name to the county gathered round it, the "ham," or "home" town, being distinguished as *North-hampton* in opposition to *South-hampton*, the "port" of Wessex which gave its name to Hampshire. The difference, in short, between these Middle Anglian and Mercian counties and those of Wessex is that the latter "retain to this day the names and the boundaries of the principalities founded by the first successors of Cerdic. . . . The local divisions of Wessex were not made, but grew." Those of Mercia, on the other hand, show every indication of having been artificially mapped out; a process which, in all probability, took place after the reconquest from the Danes, effected by Edward the Elder.

Although the greater part of Northamptonshire was, as we have seen, within the Danelagh, the traces of Danish settlement in the county are not numerous. The termination in "by" occurs, but is by no means frequent, except towards the point at which Watling Street passes out of the county, where a little group of "bys" occurs, with Rugby (across the Warwickshire border) as the principal. Canons Ashby, west of the Watling Street, is said to be the most southerly place terminating in "by" in England. Leicester was indeed for a time one of the five Danish "boroughs," but it would seem that Danish influence in this part of England was not very permanent or very powerful. At any rate, it did not greatly affect the language. The "Anglian" dialect of these shires has fulfilled a remarkable destiny. It was the form of Anglo-Saxon (the word is here used as embracing all the dialects of England, from Wessex to Northumbria) speech which was at last to set the standard of the English tongue. "The English of books and of modern speech is not the tongue of Northumberland; it is not the tongue of Wessex; it is the tongue of those eastern shires of Mercia which border on East Anglia."—*E. A. F.* When at last, two centuries and a half after the Norman Conquest, the English language won back its own place, it was the dialect of the Middle Angles which became to England "what Castilian is to Spain, what Tuscan is to Italy, what the speech of Touraine is to France."

"Without pretending to fix the geographical limit very exactly,

there can be no doubt that the English language, in the form which has been classical ever since the fourteenth century, is the language of the shires bordering on the great monastic region of the Fenland, the tongue of Northamptonshire, Huntingdonshire, Rutland, and Holland. The writer who first gave currency to the dialect was Robert Manning of Bourne, in the later days of Edward the First. Under the great writers of the fourteenth century it grew and prospered, and it was the form of the language which at the end of that century, finally displaced French as the polite and literary speech of England. Classical English is neither northern nor southern but midland; and of midland it is eastern and not western. Anyone may convince himself of this who has learned enough of the dialects of England to know how much nearer the tongue of a Northamptonshire peasant comes to the English of books than the tongue of a peasant either of Yorkshire or of Somerset. I suspect that, if the three were brought together, the true test of a standard dialect would show itself; the Northumbrian and the West Saxon would have some ado to understand one another; the Mercian would be easily understood by both. From the eleventh to the fourteenth century all forms of English south of the Tweed were mere popular dialects in the presence of a dominant foreign tongue. Since the fourteenth century the tongues of the North and the South have sunk into the still lower position of popular dialects in the presence of a dominant form of the same tongue. The ancient Saxon tongue, which in the fourteenth century was still the speech of written Kentish prose, has long passed out of written use, to become once more in our own day the written speech of Dorset rimes. The tongue of Cerdic, Ine, and Ælfred has been step by step beaten back westward till it survives only in the lands which, in days later than those of Ælfred, were still looked on as the *Wealhcygn*, the march of the conquered Britain.”—*E. A. Freeman*, ‘Norman Conquest,’ v. pp. 542–544.

Many words which are elsewhere extinct linger in the common speech of Northamptonshire (see *Miss Baker’s* ‘Glossary of Northamptonshire Words and Phrases,’ 2 vols., 1854), but the statement of Fuller that “the language of the common people is generally the best of any shire in England” is still true. Fuller (see Aldwincle St. Peter’s) was a native of the country, and he adds to this statement (*Worthies*, Northants.): “A proof whereof, when a boy, I received from a hand-labouring man herein, which hath since convinced my judgment. ‘We speak, I believe’ (said he), ‘as good English as any shire in England; because, though in the singing Psalms some words are used, to make the meeter, unknown to us; yet the last translation of the Bible, which no doubt was done by those learned men in the best English, agreeth perfectly with the common speech of the country.’”

After the Conquest, the thick forest with which so much of the county was at that time covered, drew the special attention of Norman and Angevine kings to Northamptonshire. “Nowhere,” says Sir Francis Palgrave, “was a king of England so much a king as within



the forest boundary,"—where the precinct was inaccessible to the ordinary course of justice. The great forest of Rockingham, a continuation of the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire woodlands, extended, it is said, from the immediate neighbourhood of Northampton to the north-western verge of the county; and the forests of Wittlebury and of Salcey covered the south-eastern district. Accordingly, the castles of Northampton and of Rockingham, both raised immediately after the Conquest, were much frequented by the Red King and his successors, and both have been the scenes of important historical events. At Rockingham, in 1094, took place the famous scene between Anselm and William Rufus (see Palgrave, *'Normandy and England,'* iv. 188, connects "glowing furnaces" (for iron), and "the peculiarly barbarous class of the forgemen" with the immediate neighbourhood of Rockingham—this is in accordance with the local tradition). At Northampton occurred one of the most remarkable events in the history of Becket—that scene in the "King's Hall" of the castle, which was followed by the flight of the archbishop from England. Notices of the various occurrences at Northampton, and of the Parliaments which have been held there, will be found in Rte. 1. It cannot, however, be said that these were at all influenced by any circumstances peculiar to this part of England, unless it be that the line of the Watling Street, and of one important road which passed northward (that by which the body of Queen Eleanor was brought to Northampton—see *Northampton and Geddington*), made Northampton a convenient gathering place, and a sort of centre.

The later history of Northamptonshire is marked, during the Elizabethan period, by the rise, or at least by the development, of three great houses,—that of the Cecils at Burghley; that of the Spencers at Althorp, and that of the Comptons at Castle Ashby. This group of houses (to which perhaps should be added Apethorpe, founded by Sir Walter Mildmay, Elizabeth's Chancellor of the Exchequer, who reproduced the quiet courts of his own dwelling in his college of Emmanuel, at Cambridge), the importance of which has not only been retained, but has steadily increased to our own day, is still the chief glory of Northamptonshire; and indeed, as the early history of the county gathers round the royal castles, so the later more or less connects itself with the great Elizabethan mansions, or with others which have either become less important as the centuries have passed over them, or which have altogether fallen to ruin. Boughton, the chief residence of the Dukes of Montagu, and Milton, the home of Sir William Fitzwilliam, attached to the household of Wolsey, belong to the former division. In the latter must be placed Holdenby and Kirby, one the creation, the other the purchase of Sir Christopher Hatton, Elizabeth's Lord Keeper. Kirby is quite in ruins. Holdenby has been almost entirely rebuilt, but since 1860. Other houses of earlier date are Deene, the seat of the Brudenells since 1514, and (especially to be noted) Drayton, where portions are at least as old as the reign of Edward III. The castle of Fotheringhay is now represented only

by the great keep mound and a trench or two. In its hall took place (1586-7) the execution of Queen Mary of Scotland, an event which, however important, is one of those which must be noted as having "occurred in Northamptonshire," rather than as connected with the true history of the county.

The outbreak of the Civil War brought Northamptonshire again into prominence, owing, for the most part, to the central position of the county. The first great fight of the war took place at Edgehill in Warwickshire, but not far beyond the border of Northants, on the 23rd of October, 1642. The last great fight was that at Naseby, on the highest ground in the county, June 14th, 1645. Many skirmishes occurred in different parts of the county before peace was entirely restored, the most noticeable of which was perhaps that in which Cromwell's general, Lambert, was taken (see *Daventry*). It was at Holdenby that Charles I. passed into the hands of Cornet Joyce.

William III. visited the second Earl of Sunderland at *Althorp* in 1695; and the great houses of Northamptonshire have had their due succession of royal guests. But such visits are scarcely history; and no event of real historical importance has taken place within the limits of the county since the beginning of the eighteenth century.

#### IV. ANTIQUITIES.

Northamptonshire is one of the most attractive counties in England for the antiquary whose special studies are ecclesiastical and domestic architecture. In primæval remains, and in those of the British and Roman periods, it is not rich; but the whole range of mediæval architecture, from early forms of Romanesque to the latest Perpendicular, is better illustrated in no other part of England. The domestic buildings of the county belong chiefly to the Tudor and later periods; but many of them are of very high interest.

*a. Pre-Roman.*—The Primæval and British antiquities are confined to a few camps and earthworks, the date of which it is impossible to determine, and some of which may have been turned to account during the Roman period. Of these the most important are Borough Hill, near Daventry—a British stronghold certainly Romanised. Arbury Hill, near Staverton. Castle Dykes, near Farthingstone, unless this should rather be considered as the site of a Saxon fortified mansion; and British earthworks at East Farndon.

*b. Roman.*—Of Roman remains there are the camps or stations of Irchester; Castor, or Durobrivæ; the Roman portion of Borough Hill, or Beneventa; Towcester, or Lactodorum, where, however, traces of Roman work have nearly vanished; Blackgrounds, near Chipping Warden, the probable site of Brinavis; and Lilbourne, or Tripontium. Of these, Irchester and Castor are the most distinct and important. There are still some remains of the great Roman pottery, which



extended throughout the neighbourhood of Castor. Foundations of Roman villas have been found in different parts of the county, as at Duston, near Northampton, and at Apethorpe. The mound of Clifford Hill on the Nene is probably Roman. Ermine Street crosses the N.E. corner of the county from *Durobrivæ*, near Castor, to Stamford, and Watling Street crosses the western side from Stony Stratford through Towcester and Weedon.

c. **Anglo-Saxon.**—There are several remains of Saxon work in the churches of the county, of which the following are the most important:—

Barnack	..	..	..	..	Tower.
Brigstock	..	..	..	..	Chancel arch and doorway.
Earls Barton	..	..	..	..	Tower.
Peterborough	..	..	..	..	Foundations beneath the Cathedral.
Stowe-Nine-Churches	..	..	..	..	Foundations of church, and probably the tower.

Wittering .. .. . Probably the tower. *also chancel arch*

d. **Mediæval Period.**—No English county contains more remarkable examples of Romanesque architecture in its earlier forms; and no county is more distinguished by the extreme excellence and variety of its ecclesiastical architecture, not in one period alone, but in all, from the development of Early English to the latest Perpendicular. Northamptonshire has been called a land of "Squires and Spires"; and it is undoubtedly pre-eminent in noble examples of the latter. It is to be noted that a very marked originality characterises the church architecture of the county, and especially that of the Early English and Decorated periods. The great rules and principles of mediæval architecture are nowhere disregarded; but they are frequently applied, and the subordinate decorations are used, in a manner displaying great independence on the part of the architect. The excellent building-stone of the district (see Barnack, Weldon, and Ketton in Rutland) was a strong inducement to architectural display; and Barnack stone was conveyed easily into the heart of the county by the aid of the river Nene. The great and wealthy Abbey of Peterborough set the example of church building. Its possessions were scattered over the county, but chiefly throughout the Nene valley; and it is there, accordingly, that the noblest and most costly churches are found. The ease of water-carriage seems to have been as great an incentive to building here as in the marsh-land and along the north coast of Norfolk. Passing out of the Northamptonshire district, however—either eastward, into Cambridgeshire and Norfolk; or northward, into Lincolnshire—distinct schools of builders are met with; and the marsh-land churches and those of the Lincolnshire Holland are marked by characteristics very different from those of the Nene valley. The churches of even the neighbouring and closely-connected Rutland have peculiarities which are not those of Northamptonshire. The main source of these differences is no doubt to be sought in the general conditions

of building throughout the mediæval period. But whether an architect was distinctly recognised, or whether the work was undertaken by independent bodies of masons, local causes were always in operation, which modified the design, and which influenced the main architectural character of the district. How far Peterborough was thus the building centre of Northamptonshire has yet to be clearly ascertained.

The special features of each church are described in the several routes. The churches to which the antiquary should give most attention are:—

*Norman—*

Barton Seagrave.. ..	Main walls and lower part of tower.
Castle Ashby .. ..	Doorway.
Castor .. ..	Tower.
King's Sutton .. ..	Arcade.
Northampton, St. Peter's ..	N. doorway, &c.
"    St. Sepulchre's	Circular nave.
Peterborough Cathedral ..	All Norm. except W. front and E. building.
Polebrook .. ..	Late with E. portions.
Spratton .. ..	Trans. with additions.

*Early English—*

Aldwincle All Saints' ..	Main arcade, chancel arch, &c.
"    St. Peter's ..	Nave.
Barnack .. ..	Body of the church and S. porch.
Brackley .. ..	Tower.
Canons Ashby .. ..	W. doorway and arcade.
Cotterstock .. ..	Tower.
Flore .. ..	Chancel, &c.
Great Brington .. ..	Tower, aisles, and arcade of nave.
Hannington .. ..	Single nave arcade.
Higham Ferrers .. ..	Lower part of tower and W. entrance.
Irthlingborough .. ..	Arch in N. transept.
Moreton Pinkney .. ..	Tower, chancel (rebuilt).
Northampton, St. Giles' ..	Chancel.
Oundle .. ..	Arcade.
Peterborough Cathedral ..	West front.
Raunds .. ..	Tower and spire.
Stanwick .. ..	Octagonal tower with Dec. spire
Strixton .. ..	Throughout.
Towcester .. ..	Nave arcade.
Warkworth .. ..	Nave arcade.
Warmington .. ..	With wooden groining of nave.

*Decorated—*

Aldwincle St. Peter's ..	Tower and spire.
Byfield .. ..	Tower and spire.
Canons Ashby .. ..	Tower.
Church Brampton .. ..	Nave.
Cotterstock .. ..	Chancel.



*Decorated (continued)*—

Deene .. .. .	Tower and spire.
Easton Mauduit .. ..	Mostly early Dec.
Finedon .. .. .	Throughout early Dec.
Great Billing .. ..	Tower and nave.
Harleston .. .. .	Dated example.
Higham Ferrers .. ..	North aisle and Lady Chapel.
Holdenby .. .. .	Nave.
Irchester .. .. .	Spire.
Middleton Cheney .. ..	Throughout excepting tower.
Northborough .. ..	Chiefly 14th cent.
Rushden .. .. .	Tower and spire with Perp. insertions
Stanford .. .. .	Glass.
Stanwick .. .. .	Spire.
Tichmarsh .. .. .	Tower, nave and chancel.
Watford .. .. .	Nave.
Wellingborough, St. Luke's	Nave.
Yardley Hastings .. ..	Throughout excepting tower.

*Perpendicular*—

Aldwinckle All Saints' ..	Tower.
Ashby, St. Ledger's .. ..	Throughout.
Charwelton .. .. .	Throughout.
Chipping Warden .. ..	Arcade.
Easton Neston .. .. .	Throughout.
Finedon .. .. .	Strainer arch.
Fotheringhay .. .. .	Throughout.
Great Brington .. .. .	Chancel and clerestory.
Irthingborough .. .. .	Detached campanile.
Islip .. .. .	Nave, aisles, and chancel.
Kettering .. .. .	Tower and spire.
King's Sutton .. .. .	Tower and spire.
Lowick .. .. .	With glass and monuments.
Middleton Cheney .. ..	Tower.
Oundle .. .. .	Tower.
Peterborough Cathedral ..	Eastern portion.
Rushden .. .. .	Interior with strainer arch.
Stamford, St. Martin's ..	Throughout.
Towcester .. .. .	Tower.
Uffington .. .. .	Tower and spire.
Wellingborough, St. Luke's	Chancel.

The churches of Castle Ashby and of Rockingham deserve attention for the memorials they contain: Castle Ashby of the Comptons, Earls and Marquisses of Northampton, and Rockingham of the Watsons, Earls of Rockingham. Rockingham church has been entirely rebuilt. Other *monuments* of great interest are at Lowick; Stowe-Nine-Churches; Peterborough Cathedral; St. Martin's, Stamford; Easton Neston; Warkworth; Steane Chapel; Brington; Stanford; Fawsley; Edgcote; Deene; and Warkton.

Other remains of ecclesiastical architecture are the Queen Eleanor *Crosses*; that at Northampton, and that at Geddington. The only monastic remains are those at Peterborough.

The churches of Northamptonshire, besides being noted for their spires, are rich in bells, and an admirable account of them has been written by Mr. Thomas North, F.S.A. A history of the church plate of the county has also been compiled by Mr. Christopher A. Markham, F.S.A.

**Domestic Architecture.**—The houses to be specially noticed in the county are:—

Althorp	.. .. .	18th cent.
Apethorpe	.. .. .	15th cent., Elizabethan, and later.
Ashby, St. Ledger's	.. .. .	Partly Elizabethan.
Boughton	.. .. .	Late of 17th cent.
Burghley	.. .. .	Elizabethan.
Canons Ashby	.. .. .	Part time of Henry VIII., Elizabethan, and early 18th cent.
Castle Ashby	.. .. .	Elizabethan with later additions.
Deene	.. .. .	Tudor with later additions.
Dingley	.. .. .	Philip and Mary and later.
Drayton	.. .. .	Ranging from Edward III. to William III.
Easton Neston	.. .. .	Built by Wren and Hawksmoor.
Edgcott	.. .. .	Date 1752.
Fawsley	.. .. .	Portions early 15th cent. Ruins of dower house 16th cent.
Fotheringhay	.. .. .	A hostel temp. Edward IV.
Great Harrowden	.. .. .	18th cent. with garden.
Holdenby	.. .. .	Elizabethan with modern restorations.
Kelmarsh	.. .. .	Built by Jas. Gibbs.
Kirby	.. .. .	Elizabethan in ruins.
Lamport	.. .. .	Built by Webb, son-in-law of Inigo Jones.
Lilford	.. .. .	Jacobean and later.
Lyveden, "old" and "new" buildings	.. .. .	Elizabethan.
Milton	.. .. .	Parts early 16th cent.
Northborough	.. .. .	14th cent.
Rothwell Market House	.. .. .	Elizabethan.
Rushton Hall	.. .. .	Early 16th cent., Elizabethan, and early 17th cent.
Rushton Hall, Triangular Lodge	.. .. .	Elizabethan.
Stoke Albany	.. .. .	15th cent. remains.
Stoke Bruerne Park	.. .. .	Partly by Inigo Jones (remains).
Thorpe Hall, near Peterborough	.. .. .	Built by Webb, 1656.
Upton Hall	.. .. .	With roof of 14th cent.
Woodcroft	.. .. .	Temp. Edward I.
Wothorpe	.. .. .	Early 17th cent., in ruins.
Yardley Hastings Manor House	.. .. .	Fragment of 14th cent.



**Military.**—Northampton is not rich in fortified mansions like its neighbouring county, Warwickshire, and only a few remains of old castles still exist:—

Barnwell St. Andrew	..	A great Edwardian quadrangle with angle towers.
Fotheringhay Castle	.. ..	The mounds only.
Northampton Castle	.. ..	A fragment of the enclosing wall.
Rockingham Castle	.. ..	A great gateway, date from 1275, and domestic buildings, portions of the 13th cent. and other parts of the 16th cent., chiefly Elizabethan.
Thorpe Waterville Castle	..	A fragment dating from the 14th cent.

Among other mediæval remains must be classed two very interesting *bridges*: one at Higham Ferrers, of the 13th cent., and another over the Cherwell, dating from about 1250. There are also bridges at Geddington and Ditchford, both probably of the 14th cent., and a stone culvert of the same period exists under the road close to Thorpe Stat., near Thrapston.

**Art Collections.**—The principal collections of pictures and other works of art in the county are at the following mansions:—

Althorp.		Castle Ashby.
Boughton.		Drayton.
Burghley.		Rockingham.





# HANDBOOK

FOR

# NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

AND

# RUTLAND.

## SECTION I.

## NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

### ROUTES.

\* \* The names of places are printed in black in those Routes where they are described.

ROUTE	PAGE	ROUTE	PAGE
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2. Northampton to <b>Welling-</b> <b>borough</b> , <b>Thrapston</b> , <b>Oundle</b> , <b>Fotheringhay</b> , and <b>Peterborough</b> (L. & N. W. Rly.) . . .	16	8. Rugby to <b>Brackley</b> (G. C. Rly.) . . .	161
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### ROUTE 1.

#### LONDON TO NORTHAMPTON.

(LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY. 65½ m.)

Rail. Stations.  
60 m. Roade.  
65½ m. **NORTHAMPTON** (Castle Stat.).

For a description of the line  
passed over between Euston Station  
and Roade, see *H.Bks. for Hertford-*  
*shire and Buckinghamshire.*  
[*Northamptonshire.*]

At about 55 m. from London the  
Rly. crosses the border of Bucking-  
hamshire into Northamptonshire,  
and reaches at

**60 m. Roade** (Stat.). The village  
lies to the N.E. The Church of

St. Mary is a Trans.-Norm. building with an enriched S. doorway and central tower. In the chancel are a piscina and an altar-tomb without any inscription. The *Hide*, now a farmhouse, was formerly the manor-house and belonged to the Augustinian Abbey at Duston (see *post*).

On the extreme border of the county, 2 m. S.E. from Roade, is the little village of **Hartwell**, standing on high ground, and on the southern limit of Salcey Forest. The present *Church*, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, was built in 1851, and into it was worked a late Norm. arcade, removed from the church then destroyed. There is much enrichment in the capitals and outer arch mouldings, which spring somewhat remarkably from a crown of leaves placed on the capital. The pulpit, resting on a bracket, is entered by steps through the wall. This Hartwell must not be confounded with Hartwell near Aylesbury, the residence, from 1810 to 1814, of the exiled Louis XVIII. To the E. is *Salcey Forest*; and *Salcey Lawn* is the seat of Captain and Lady Dundas. To the N. of Salcey Forest are the villages of **Piddington** and **Horton** (Stat. on the Midland Rly.,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Northampton). The *Church* of St. John the Baptist at Piddington is a Perp. building (restd. 1878) with a W. tower and lofty spire. At Horton the *Church* of St. Mary contains an altar-tomb with effigies to Lord Parr, of Horton (d. 1546) and his wife. He was Lord Chamberlain to Katherine, Queen of Henry VIII. There is also a *brass* with effigies of Roger Salisbury (d. 1491) and his two wives.

To the W. of the Rly. is **Stoke Bruerne**, where the *Church* of St. Mary the Virgin (restd. 1865) is Dec. and Perp., but with Norm. portions (inner portal of tower). In the

chancel is a *brass* to Richard Lightfoot (d. 1625). To the S. is *Stoke Bruerne Park*, belonging to B. Wentworth Vernon, Esq., J.P. The house (of which the S. elevation is engraved in Campbell's *Vitruvius Britannicus*) was built by Sir Francis Crane (who established a manufacture of tapestry at Mortlake), partly from a design brought from Italy, and partly with the assistance of Inigo Jones. It was begun about 1630, and finished before 1636; between which years Sir Francis received a visit here from Charles I. and his queen. The greater part of the original house, however, was destroyed by fire in 1886.

The *Grand Junction Canal* enters the county at Cosgrove, and passing Stoke Bruerne proceeds to Blisworth, whence there is a branch to Northampton. At Stoke Bruerne the canal is carried on a level above the houses in the lower part of the village. Seven locks lift the navigation to the entrance of a tunnel,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m. long, known as the Blisworth tunnel; the southern end of which is a short distance from that village. 1 m. W. is the hamlet of *Shuttlanger*, where are the remains of a small 15th cent. chapel.

Adjoining Stoke and close to the Rly. is **Ashton**. The *Church* of St. Michael is late Perp. (restored), and is only interesting for the monuments it contains. In the N. aisle are a much shattered wooden effigy of a cross-legged knight, Sir Philip le Lou, Lord of "Esshe," who was living in 1315; an altar-tomb with trefoil-headed arches in front; an alabaster effigy of Sir John Herteshull, or Hardreshull, in armour (they were of Hartshill, in Warwickshire), d. circa 1365; and another altar-tomb, with *brasses* for Robert Marriott, d. circa 1580, wife and fifteen children. Beneath the figures is a long inscription, which partly runs;—



"Robert Marriott here dothe lie, a yeoman  
bleste with goode.

\* \* \* \*

In England bred, in Ashton dwelte, an  
awncient married man,

Where goodes he left, and nowe is gone  
to earth from whence he cam."

He is bare-headed, and wears a merchant's gown, faced with min-  
ever. The font, probably Saxon, is  
very large, and the pulpit is Jaco-  
bean.

To the N.E. of the church are the  
remains of the moat of the manor-  
house, now cottages. Local tradi-  
tion says there is a subterranean  
passage from here to the Hide at  
Roade.

1 m. N. of Roade is Courteenhall.  
The Church of St. Peter and St.  
Paul contains a monument in the  
N. aisle, with life-sized kneeling  
figures, in white marble, for Sir  
Samuel Jones (d. 1672) and his  
wife. Sir Samuel was the founder  
of a free school here, which has  
within it a remarkably fine Tudor  
staircase. There is also a monu-  
ment with the following curious  
rhyming inscription to a member of  
the Wake family who married an  
Ouseley:—

"A Sallops Oseley I,  
A ruen partridge wonne,  
No birds I had her by,  
Such wrek with her was donne.  
Shee dead, I tiftle sought,  
A Wake in Salsie bred,  
Twice five birds shee me brought,  
Shee lyvs, but I am dead.

But when ninth yeare was come  
I sleapt that was a Wake,  
And yielding to Deathe's doome  
Did here my lodgig take."

In the chancel are three carved  
Dec. sedilia, and a good piscina of  
the same period, a double ambry,  
and a low-side window. In the S.  
aisle is a hagioscope towards the N.  
chapel. There is a Saxon font of  
the 10th cent. The Manor House  
is the residence of Sir Here-  
wald Wake, Bart., a large square

mansion, in a well-wooded park.  
Adjoining is the parish of Quinton.

Continuing by rail, the line to  
Northampton branches off through  
a deep cutting to the rt., and passes  
the villages of Milton on the l. and  
Collingtree, in the church of which  
is an E. E. font supported on five  
columns, and Wootton on the rt.,  
and after passing through a tunnel  
reaches at

65 $\frac{3}{4}$  m. NORTHAMPTON (Castle  
Stat.).

There are two other Rly. Stats.:  
Bridge St. Stat., on the rt. bank of  
the Nene, and the Midland Rly.  
Stat. in the town.

The town of Northampton (the  
"Hamtune" of the Saxon Chronicle;  
afterwards, as "North" Hampton,  
distinguished from the port of  
"South" Hampton) stretches up-  
ward along the ridge of high ground  
on the l. bank of the Nene, at a point  
where that river, flowing from the  
western border of the county, makes  
a bend towards the N.E. North-  
ampton seems to have been one of  
the first important centres (others  
were Bedford and Huntingdon) of  
the "Middle Angles," as they are  
called, an Anglian race which oc-  
cupied this eastern portion of Mercia.  
The Danes possessed themselves of  
the "burgh" in the 9th cent., and  
submitted in 921 to Edward the  
Elder, during the expedition in  
which he subdued this part of the  
"Danelagh." In 1010 a Danish  
host, in that great harrying of the  
country which preceded Svend's  
conquest of it, burned Northampton,  
and "took thereabout as much as  
they would;" and in 1065, when  
Northumbria revolted against Tostig  
and deposed him, Morkere, who was  
chosen in his place, marched south-  
ward, joined by the men of Lincoln,  
Nottingham, and Derby, reached  
Northampton, and made it his head-  
quarters. He was met here by his

brother Eadwine, at the head of the men of his Mercian earldom; and together they ravaged the surrounding country, "slew men, burned houses and corn, took cattle, and led north with them many hundred men"—apparently as slaves. Northamptonshire and the other shires near it, were, says the Chronicle, "for many winters the worse." There had been some ancient connexion between the great earldom of Northumbria and the shire of Northampton (for which reason, perhaps, Morkere stationed his "host" in and about the "burgh"), and Siward had been earl of both. At the settlement between Morkere and the Confessor, which Harold arranged at a great gemote held at Oxford, it was determined that Northamptonshire should be altogether separated from Northumbria, and the earldom, together with that of Huntingdonshire, was assigned to Waltheof, son of Siward (see Freeman's '*Norm. Conq.*' ii. 499, and the Note G, on the great earldoms). Waltheof held them until his beheading at Winchester in 1076. His wife, Judith, niece of the Conqueror, retained large estates in Northamptonshire, and legend (for it is nothing more) asserts that the Conqueror desired to give her in marriage to Simon of Senlis, who was lame, and who in the story appears as "Earl of Northampton." Judith refused a lame husband, and fled from the wrath of William to Hereward's refuge in the marshes of Ely. All this story is mythical; but it is certain that a daughter of Waltheof and Judith did marry Simon of Senlis, and conveyed to him the earldoms of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire. Simon of Senlis was the founder of the Norman castle at Northampton and of the neighbouring priory of St. Andrew.

The central position of Northampton, in the midst of a great forest

district (for the greater part of the county was at one time included within the bounds of the forest of Rockingham), made it a favourite resort of the Norman and Angevin kings. Henry I. kept Easter here in 1131. Many great councils and parliaments were held here, sitting in the great hall of the castle, which descended, with the title of earl, to the grandson of the founder, Simon of Senlis, but had passed sometime before his death in 1184 (when the earldom in that line became extinct) into the hands of the Crown. In 1164, during a great council of Henry II., the famous scene took place in the castle hall, when Archbishop Becket appeared bearing his own cross, and after the bishops had renounced their obedience to him, escaped by night to Sandwich, and thence crossed to Flanders. There was another great council here in 1176, when the Constitutions of Clarendon were ratified; when the king of Scotland was present, and England was first divided into six circuits, to each of which three itinerant judges were appointed. (For the later *parliaments* held here see *post.*) Richard I., after his return from captivity, kept Easter at Northampton. King John was especially fond of the town, and paid it frequent visits, sometimes four in the year, throughout his reign. (Shakespeare accordingly opens his play of 'King John' at Northampton.) Henry III. was often here, and was holding a great council in 1224 when the news was brought to him of the rebellion of Faulke de Breaute, whom the archbishop and other prelates present anathematized, and the council granted a subsidy for making machines for the siege of Bedford Castle (see *II. Bk. for Bedfordshire*). Toward the middle of the century Northampton had nearly taken the place of Oxford as one of the principal universities of the country. In



consequence of the violent disputes between the university and the town, the students abandoned Oxford, and in 1260 settled at Northampton, where the mayor, bailiffs, and other "good men" were directed (in 1261) by Henry III. to afford them protection and accommodation. They were recalled, however, somewhat later, by the entreaties of the people of Oxford, and by the king's command, and Northampton lost its greatest chance of distinction. In 1264 the town was taken possession of by the barons. Prince Edward, on the king's side, assaulted it; the younger De Montfort was taken prisoner early in the siege; the castle was gained by stratagem, and the town sacked by the royalists—events which led to a firmer union of the barons, and to the battle of Lewes (May 14, 1264). In 1267 there was a great gathering of nobles here, and 100 knights assumed the cross in presence of Henry III. and his court. In 1290 the body of Queen Eleanor, on its way from Lincolnshire to London, rested here, and the cross which still remains was raised in commemoration. In 1460, the army of Henry VI. was defeated by the Duke of York, with great loss, in the meadows near the convent of Delapré (see *post*) outside the town. Many nobles fell; Queen Margaret fled to Scotland, and Henry himself remained a prisoner in the hands of the duke.

*Parliaments* were held at Northampton on the 13th October, 1307, immediately after the death of Edward I. at Burgh-on-the-Sands; on the 24th April, 1328, when what is known as the "first statute of Northampton" was enacted, which confirmed the great charters and amended the criminal law; on the 26th July, 1338; and on the 5th November, 1380, when the "second statute of Northampton" was passed, enforcing the gauging of all foreign wines, and proclaiming the terms of

the royal pardon for escaped felons. The last of these parliaments was held in a "chamber of St. Andrew's Priory," and it is probable that none had been held in the castle since that of 1307. The great hall there had been destroyed by fire before 1323, and there is no evidence that it was ever rebuilt. The castle had fallen much into ruin, and served as a prison, and the Assizes were held there from the reign of Edward III. until the end of the 17th cent., when it passed into private hands.

The *burgh* of Northampton, like other English towns, obtained its charters of liberties by purchase and by payment of an annual sum to the royal exchequer. The earliest charter was granted by Richard I., and the result of all the charters was to give the town increased freedom from the jurisdiction and encroachments of all persons and authorities outside its liberty. The "præpositus," or provost, becomes at last a mayor; and the borough was finally "incorporated" by the name of the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of Northampton," in 1460, the year of the battle of Delapré. (The several charters will be found in Hartshorne's 'Hist. Memorials of Northampton,' 1848, and 'The Records of the Borough of Northampton,' by C. A. Markham and the Rev. J. C. Cox. They afford an excellent illustration of the gradual growth in liberty of an English town.) Many guilds existed among the burgesses and the craftsmen, one of the most important being that of the *shoemakers*, whose trade had become the principal in Northampton (as it is at present) before the reign of Edward VI. The "winter shoes" of Wm. de Blatherwyk, foxhunter of Edward I., and those of his two assistants, cost here 7s.; and King John gave 12*d.* for a pair of single-soled boots (*pro 1 pari botarum singularum*). The citizens furnished

Cromwell's army, in 1648, with 1500 pairs of shoes; and there is an old saying that "you may know when you are within a mile of Northampton by the smell of the leather and the noise of the lapstones." The trade received its greatest impulse from the Government contracts obtained for it by Spencer Perceval, who sat as member for the borough up to the time of his assassination (the town was one of the first to send members to Parliament). In 1844 Queen Victoria passed through Northampton on her way to Burghley, and the mayor presented Prince Albert with a pair of boots. Northampton supplied the Crimea with mud-boots, and sent shoes to the French army during the war with Germany. The quantity of leather sold at its *fairs*, which were important (one of them continued for a month), was, and still is, very great. It was the chief mart for the old "leather bottel."

The visitor to Northampton will at once be reminded, by the leather aprons and grimy faces which haunt the streets, that he is in a land of shoemakers—a somewhat turbulent race, who, on more than one occasion, have rendered the parliamentary elections here scenes of unusual riot. There are large tan-yards, and one or two important breweries, especially that of P. Phipps and Co., Limited, a fine building in Bridge St. The town has four principal streets, one of which (Bridge St.) climbs a steep hill from the river side, and the *Church* of All Saints stands in an open place near the crossing. The *Market Square*, which lies off the street (the Drapery) running northward, has been called "the finest in Europe"—an extravagant and unkindly laudation. It is, however, a good "emplacement," though not over-picturesque. In the centre is a drinking fountain and lamp, given, in 1863, by Samuel Isaac,

captain of the 5th corps of Northants. Volunteers. On the N. is a Corn Exchange—by no means to be commended—with a long, unbroken mass of roof, which asserts itself most unpleasantly in all distant views of the town. In spite of its antiquity, and of the royal favour it could so long boast of, Northampton is an ordinary looking town, with few (apparent) marks of great age, and with no very ancient houses. This is, no doubt, owing in part to the great fire of 1675, when 600 houses were destroyed, and an enormous quantity of goods plundered in the confusion. "May the stolen sugars," says a writer, who describes the scene, "fruit, spices, linen, clothes, bedding, or whatever else these men of prey took by fraud, be bitter, hot, cold, and uneasy to them, till they have eased their consciences of so great a guilt." There is a long and pleasant modern suburb on the Billing Road eastward; and another on the N.E. called East Park and Phippsville.

The **Town Hall** in St. Giles' Square was built in two different periods. The first portion was opened in 1864, having been three years in building (E. W. Godwin, archt.). The second or W. portion was completed in 1892 (Jeffery and Holding, archts.). The exterior has numerous statues of English kings by Boulton of Worcester; and on the arches of the lower windows are subjects connected with the history of the place,—the marriage of Waltheof and Judith; Henry II. granting the first charter to the town; the grant of the charter of incorporation of Henry VI.; and the resting of the body of Queen Eleanor, on its way to Westminster. There are also, in the lower part of the front, some carvings illustrating various branches of the staple trade (that in boots and shoes) in early days.



In the vestibule of the great hall are various sculptured figures, among which St. Crispin is appropriately conspicuous; besides groups representing the various parliaments held in Northampton. In the centre is a clock tower. The great hall itself is striking, with a figure of Moses at the S. end. The Magistrates' Court, in which the Petty Sessions are held, is but slightly decorated. The committee-room is a fine room, with figures and inscriptions over the fire-place,—a reaper, with the words, "He that gathereth in summer is a wise son": and a man warming himself over the flame,—"Numb'd with holding all the day, the hatchet keene with which he felled around." On the staircase is a window of which the stained glass represents subjects from Tennyson's 'Idylls.'

The new Council Chamber is a fine room. It is built of white Bath stone and local sand stone in courses, in the Gothic style, and the roof is of wood vaulted. The statue of Spencer Perceval by *Chantrey*, which for a long time stood in All Saints' Church, was removed to the Museum, and now stands in the Council Chamber. Mr. Perceval, M.P., for Northampton, was killed in the lobby of the House of Commons, May 11, 1812.

The **County Hall** in George Row was built at the latter part of the 17th cent., contains portraits of King William III. and Mary, Queen Anne, and George I. and II. In both the Crown and Nisi Prius Courts are very beautiful ceilings, modelled in high relief.

The **Museum** and **Free Library** in the **Guildhall** Road were, in 1884, formed out of a portion of the old County Gaol, and enlarged in 1898. In the Museum are interesting relics discovered in different parts of the county.

Ancient Northampton had four principal churches, one in each quarter of the town—St. Peter's, the Holy Sepulchre, All Saints', and St. Giles's. Of these, St. Peter's is peculiar and very rich Norm. The Holy Sepulchre is one of the four round churches (so called) in England. All Saints' was rebuilt after the fire, and, except the tower, is of King Charles II.'s time. St. Giles's is chiefly Perp. There are some modern churches—St. Edmund's, St. James's in the W. suburb, St. Paul's, St. Mary's at Far Cotton, and St. Matthew's in East Park; but these call for no special notice.

**St. Peter's Church**, near the W. end of the town, above the castle and the bridge which here crosses the Nene, was restored under direction of Sir G. G. Scott, R.A. It is possible that the whole of the existing church was built as the choir of a much larger one which was never completed. There is, however, no evidence to prove such an intention; and all that is certain is that the church must have been built whilst the Senlis Earls were lords of Northampton, and probably by the last earl (d. 1184), since it is of late Norm. character, and may date from about 1160. Some alterations were made in Perp. times, when the N. porch was built, and Perp. windows were inserted in the aisles. On the *exterior*, remark the N. portal (Norm.) within the porch; the corbel table of heads immediately under the roof; the arrangement of the shallow arcade, pierced at intervals for the clerestory; the W. front with a remarkable flat arch, enriched, over the tympanum of the window; the two lower stages of the tower; and the triple pier-like buttresses at the angles—the last a somewhat French feature, and, at any rate, very rare in England. *Inside* the church the principal features are the main arcade

*Much but not all of this was removed (1910)  
moved to Abington Park Mus.*

and the western tower arch. These are highly enriched. There is no strongly-marked division between nave and chancel, but whilst in the nave the piers are alternately round, with rings in the centre, and grouped in three rounded shafts, with a fourth attached, rising to the roof as a vaulting shaft, in the chancel the piers are all round, and the two easternmost only are ringed. The rings are all enriched with a twisted ornament resembling metal work—one of the earliest forms of the ring which constantly occurs in E. E. The nave capitals are wonderfully sculptured with interlacing cords, leafage, birds, and heads. Those at the W. end of the chancel should especially be noticed. These were carefully cleaned by Miss Baker, with chisel and mallet. The circular arches have plain soffetes, but are surrounded with zigzag ornament. Rude masonry and springers remain in the aisles, showing that they were once vaulted, and perhaps loftier than at present. The W. arch across the tower recedes in three orders, and has much ornament. It is unusual to find so enriched an arch in this position—a fact which must be remembered in connection with the suggestion that the building may have been intended at first to be much larger. There is, too, a hollow in the tower wall, W. of the arch, which is puzzling. The tower itself seems later than the rest of the church, and to have more of E. E. character.

The E. wall of the chancel was entirely rebuilt by *Sir G. G. Scott* in 1850-1. The original E. end had been replaced by a modern wall, in which fragments of the older stonework were found to be imbedded; and these to some extent guided him in the existing arrangement of windows, which are in three tiers.

In the church was buried John Smith, an eminent "mezzotinto scraper" (d. 1742). At the W. end

of the S. aisle is a tablet, with bust, of Dr. William Smith, known as the "father of English Geology." He was born in 1769 at Churchill in Oxfordshire; began in 1791 to survey collieries and canals near Bath, and "observing that the several strata were characterised by peculiar groups of organic remains, he adopted this fact as a principle of comparison," . . . and published in 1815 a geological map of England and Wales. He died here, Aug. 28, 1839—on his way to the meeting of the British Association at Birmingham—at the house of his friend George Baker, the historian of Northamptonshire, and was buried in the churchyard. A little below, is a tablet which commemorates Baker himself—born in Northampton 1781, died 1851; and his sister, his helpmate in all his labours, Ann Eliz. Baker, born 1786, died 1861. Only a portion of Baker's County History was ever completed; but this is most excellent. The old house in which he lived is still standing, a little higher up the street than St. Peter's Church, and on the same side. It had belonged to Sir Arthur Hazelrigge in the days of Charles I. A chapel, in which Dr. Doddridge preached for many years, exists in a lane nearly opposite this house.

The Church of St. Sepulchre, as it is usually called, more properly the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, near the old North gate, at the end of Sheep St., is one of four in England—the others are at Cambridge, at Little Maplestead in Essex, and the Temple Church, in London—which were built under the direct influence of the Crusade, and of which the form was imitated from that of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem. The three other churches were built by Templars or Hospitallers; but there is no evidence



that this church at Northampton was the work of either order. The first Earl Simon was a crusader, and he may have been the builder, though this is not certain. It was, however, made over by Henry I. to the community of St. Andrew's Priory, certainly founded by Earl Simon. The plan resembles that of the other Sepulchre churches—a circular nave, with a long choir and presbytery projecting from it. The building was restored by *Sir G. G. Scott*—the rounded portion as a special memorial to the Rev. Thomas James, Canon of Peterborough (d. 1864), himself an earnest restorer of "waste places," and well known in all good works. The massive circular piers of the round (it is rather octagonal than round, as the wall above indicates) support pointed arches, and above every alternate arch is a small square-headed window. The font (modern) is in the centre, and the canopy is carried by a chain from the open wooden roof, also new. The font is supported by figures of three kneeling Templars, pouring water (of the Jordan) from urns. On the bowl are sculptured the baptism of Our Lord, St. Philip and the Eunuch, and other subjects. The rich tiling of the floor, and the manner in which sepulchral inscriptions are arranged in the tiles, should be noticed. The windows in the round portion are late Dec. except two, round-headed, S. and N. The bases of the great piers were almost completely buried in the ground before the restoration. Inside the S. porch is a small Anglo-Saxon sun-dial, probably of the 9th cent.

Owing to the unusual ground-plan, the effect looking eastward is very remarkable. What is now used as the nave was probably the original chancel, and has Trans.-Norm. piers on the N. side (with one later E. E.), and massive Dec. on the S. On the N. side are traces of Norm.

windows in the wall, which was cut through to form the present arches. There are remains of a fresco in one of these arches never quite pierced through the wall, also on the N. side. There is an additional S. aisle, with E. E. piers and capitals. The wall and windows, of Dec. character, are new. The presbytery or apse, and eastern ends of aisles, are new, from Scott's designs. Arches and piers are of oolite, banded (too regularly) in brown and white, with smaller shafts of various marbles. The main arch is much enriched with leafage. There is some modern stained glass. The carving of the sedilia is good; and the choir-desks are inlaid in front with variously coloured woods, as at Llandaff.

W. of the circular nave is the tower, surmounted by a spire and apparently Perp. It is not graceful. The tower has enormous angular buttresses, receding in six stages. These may be compared with the flat Norm. buttresses of the round part. (See 'History of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre,' by Rev. J. C. Cox and Rev. R. A. Serjeantson.)

**All Saints' Church**, in the "Drapery," was, except the tower, entirely destroyed by the fire of 1675. Over the portico is a statue of Charles II.; and along the front runs an inscription:—"This statue was erected in memory of King Charles II., who gave a thousand tun of timber toward the rebuilding of this church, and to this town." He also remitted "chimney money" for seven years. (The timber was taken from Whittlebury Forest.) The tower (originally central) is Dec., with a lantern raised on it. The body of the church is fine for its period. The pillars are lofty and good, and the nave ceiling and the dome or cupola which rises from it, are much enriched and ornamented. The *Organ*, first erected in 1700, but almost entirely reconstructed, is a very

good one. It was on the application of the clerk of this church that Cowper, for seven successive years, furnished a "copy of verses" to be appended to the annual "bill of mortality" kept in the parish, and delivered yearly to the mayor and other worthy inhabitants. The clerk, as Cowper writes to Lady Hesketh, walked to Weston Underwood to beg the poet's help, telling him that one Cox, a statuary, who had hitherto supplied the verses, was "a gentleman of so much reading that the people of our town cannot understand him." Cowper accordingly consented; and "the waggon," he adds, "has gone this day to Northampton loaded in part with my effusions in the mortuary style. A fig for poets who write epitaphs upon individuals! I have written *one that serves two hundred persons*." The "Northampton Tables," on which all life insurance calculations have been founded, were framed by Dr. Price on the bills of mortality kept in All Saints' Parish.

**St. Giles's Church**, in Abingdon St., was enlarged in 1857, when the nave was lengthened and the N. aisle added. The chancel (restored in 1876) is E. E. with a Dec. E. window inserted. There is a Norm. west door; and lower portions of the tower are Norm., but the greater part of the church is Perp.; and there is a south chapel of this date, containing an altar-tomb for one of the Gobion family. The central tower fell in 1613, and was then rebuilt, nearly from the roof upwards.

The ruins of the **Castle of Northampton** (at the bottom of Gold St., and close to the Castle Stat.) were very scanty. The story of the Castle is in reality that of Northampton, and has already (see *ante*) been given. After it passed into the hands of the king (about 1174),

it is frequently mentioned in the Pipe Rolls as the "turre de Northampton"; and there are many payments for repairing portions of it. A survey was made of its condition in 1253; when it was found that the park was "decently kept in vert, venison, and pasture," that many works had recently been done in the Castle by the sheriff, but that the great wall still needed much repair. A survey was again taken in 1323, when the whole Castle was evidently in a most decayed condition. It was probably never restored to its former state, and portions of it were used as prisons for a lengthened period. The Castle stood on the high bank of the Nene, by which river it was defended on the W. On the other sides there was a deep fosse filled from the river. The position is fine and open, with the Abbeys of St. James (on the opposite hill, see *post*), and Delapré in sight, and the town of Northampton on the east. The park, which was extensive, ranged on either side of the river. It was difficult to make out the ground-plan of the Castle; but there seem to have been, as usual, an outer and an inner ward, with a keep at the N.E. end of the latter. The main enciente, or boundary wall, was flanked at intervals with circular towers. When the London & N. W. Rly. Co. made their new main line through Northampton, the whole of the remains of the Castle were swept away. The only portion of the Castle still left is a piece of the Ashlar wall, and the postern gate, which have been erected by the road outside the Castle Station.

Since 1850 there has been a Roman Catholic bishop of Northampton. The "pro-Cathedral," opened in 1864, is from designs by A. W. N. Pugin. It contains some stained glass by *Hardman*, panel paintings by *Hess*; and a large crucifix carved in veined ivory by a Spanish artist.



Of the *Priory of St. Andrew*—founded apparently, certainly largely endowed, for Cluniac monks, in 1084, by the first Earl Simon, of Senlis—there are no remains. It stood on the N. side of the town. Nearly all the churches in Northampton belonged to this abbey, which was at first dependent on the house of S. Marie de Charité, in France, but was made denizen in the 6th year of Edw. IV. At the Dissolution, the annual net income was 263*l.* 7*s.*, and the house was then in an unpromising state.

The *Abbey of St. James*’, at the end of the western suburb, beyond the bridge, was founded by William Peverel (called natural son of the Conqueror) before the year 1112, or Augustinian canons. Its annual income at the Dissolution was 213*l.* 17*s.* The demesnes lie on both sides of the road leading to Banbury; and on the l. much of the enclosing wall (E. E. ?) remains.

*College Street* is so named from a college incorporating the various guilds of the town, founded by Henry VI., and placed under the government of a custos and 16 priests. It was bound to pray for the “good estate” of Margaret of Anjou and her son Prince Edward; and for Henry himself after his death.

In Abingdon St. is a large *Convent* (Notre Dame) of Belgian nuns, who have a good school. Beyond is the Northampton Grammar School, with which is incorporated the *Technical School*, opened in 1894. In St. Giles’ St. is the Northamptonshire *Orphanage*. Here also are the *County Infirmary*, large and airy, with a pleasant garden; and an *Asylum*, known as St. Andrew’s Hospital, self-supporting and well-managed. This suburb on the Billing Road is by far the pleasantest part of Northampton. *Becket’s Well*, below the Infirmary on the Bedford Road, has a little modern

Gothic structure above it. There is no apparent reason for connecting it with the famous archbishop. The *Her Majesty’s Prison* in Campbell Square was built at a cost of 17,000*l.*, in 1845, and much enlarged in 1879. The new *Cattle Market*, on the S. side of the town, opened in 1873, is large and well arranged.

*Queen Eleanor’s Cross*, which stands on high ground 1 m. S. of the town in the parish of Hardingstone on the London road, is the most perfect and important of the beautiful crosses raised by the care of Edward I., at each place where the body of Queen Eleanor rested on its way from Harby in Nottinghamshire (where she died in the house of Richard de Weston, Nov. 28, 1290) to the tomb in Westminster Abbey. “Living,” wrote the King to the Abbot of Cluny, “I loved her dearly, and dead, I shall never cease to love her.” Wherever the procession halted at night, the bier was set down, and “the King’s chancellor and the great men present” marked a fitting place where a cross might afterwards be erected. The bier was then conveyed into the church where it was to remain during the night. Only three of these crosses remain,—at Northampton, at Waltham, and at Geddington; and of these the Waltham cross has been so completely “restored” that it is really a new structure. The cross at Northampton has been cared for sufficiently to preserve it from destruction. In 1840 it was well restored by Mr. Blore, and certain defacements were removed which it underwent in the reign of Queen Anne; when a sun-dial was placed on each of the sides, a cross pattée, 3 ft. in height, was added on the top, and the whole was “repaired” “by order of the bench of justices,” and an inscription on the W. side recording all this. The Geddington

ton cross (see Rte. 10) remains practically untouched. There were certainly crosses at Lincoln, Stony Stratford, Woburn, Dunstable, St. Alban's, Cheap, and Charing, all of which have perished. It is said also that crosses were erected at Grantham and at Stamford. The architect of this cross at Northampton, as well as of those at Stony Stratford, Woburn, Dunstable, and St. Alban's, was a certain John de Bello or de la Battaile; and Alexander of Abingdon, and William of Ireland were employed on the statues. These crosses were all built between 1291 and 1294.

The Northampton Cross, standing on the l. side of the highway, is raised on 8 steps and a base. It is octagonal, and now consists of three portions, the lower filled with canopied tracery and shields of arms; the second containing four statues of Queen Eleanor, under rich canopies; and the third rising with canopied panelling and rich finials. On the uppermost portion, above this, has been placed a broken shaft, and it is now quite uncertain in what manner the whole design—one of the most beautiful in the whole range of Gothic architecture—was completed. All the details are full of grace and delicacy. The foliage is throughout natural, and nothing can exceed the beauty of that in the upper tier above the figures of the queen. A cornice of open roses, with leaves supporting a cresting, forms the base on which these figures rest. Small open books on desks are placed in the alternate panels of the lowest division. The statues of the queen vary in arrangement and position, but all are most graceful, and there can be no doubt that they give us the true "presentment" of Eleanor of Castile. The character and expression are the same as in the effigy on her tomb at Westminster. The whole work is of a grey stone. It was restored again in 1884.

The view from the Cross shows well the position of Northampton, in the valley of the Nene. Below, to the rt., is seen, among woods, *Delapré Abbey* (J. Cooper, Esq., J.P.), a modern house. The abbey, on the site of which it stands, was founded for Cluniac nuns by the second Simon of Senlis, Earl of Northampton. He endowed it with many churches, including that of Fotheringhay, and the annual revenue at the suppression was 119*l.* 9*s.* It was, no doubt, in the chapel of this convent that the bier of Queen Eleanor rested for a night. In the meadows beyond the abbey the army of Henry VI. entrenched themselves before the battle of 1460, and were driven back on the river (see *ante*).

A causeway, by the side of the road from Northampton, was constructed at the same time as the cross, and cost 40*l.* and 60 marks. It was executed "for the benefit of Eleanor's soul"; that is, partly as a work of charity, and partly to enable those who desired, to reach the cross more easily, where they might pray for the queen's welfare.

The village of **Hardingstone** is about 1 m. beyond the Cross, on a road branching l. The *Church* of St. Edmund, restored 1869, has E. E. portions, the most interesting being the tower arch, which is built of irregularly sized stones, alternately varying in colour. James Hervey, the divine, and author of 'Meditations among the Tombs,' was born at Hardingstone in 1714. To the S. 1 m. is the village of **Wootton**, and 2 m. S.E. **Preston Deanery**. There is a large oval camp, called *Hunsborough*, in the parish (lying due W. of the Cross), with single ditch and double vallum. It stands on high ground, commanding wide views.

*Upton Hall* (Mrs. Turner) is 2 m. from Northampton, on the Daventry



road. The shoemaking suburb of St. James' End is passed through before ascending the hill, from which there is a good view of the town. The hall has been much refaced and decorated, temp. Anne, but contains part of a wooden roof of the 14th cent., well worked and designed (this is hidden above the roof of the present saloon). From an early period it belonged to the Samwells, one of whom, Jane Samwell, married Sir Sapcote Harington, and became the mother of James Harington, the once well-known author of the 'Oceana,' born here in January, 1611. His portrait remains in the house, besides a replica of the portrait at Woburn of Lucy Harington, Countess of Bedford. Here is also an interesting picture of Sir John Finett, Master of the Ceremonies to James I., with a view of the Thames in the distance. The little *Church* of St. Michael (restd. 1893), in the adjoining village of Upton, was originally Norm., but Dec. windows have been inserted. There is a tablet for Harington of the 'Oceana,' who was buried in St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, in 1677, and a monument with an edifying inscription for Sir Thos. Samwell, who, in 1745, "when a vile crew of lawless wretches scattered the flames of rebellion into the very heart of this country," "accepted of a commission" in one of the principal regiments raised for the Government. In the chancel is a low-side window, and in the N. wall are the remains of the stairs to a rood-loft. In the chancel against the N. wall, and upon a recent plain altar-tomb, there are two fine recumbent effigies (dated 1538) of members of the Knightley family of Fawsley. The *County Lunatic Asylum*, at Berry Wood, is in this parish. It was erected in 1876 at a cost, including the land, of 162,176*l.*, and had accommodation for over 500

patients. Since that time it has been much enlarged.

**Kislingbury**,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. beyond Upton, l. of the road. The *Church* of St. Luke is mainly Dec., consisting of a chancel, nave with aisles, and a tower with spire. The piers of the nave are unusually lofty, with moulded capitals, and sharply pointed arches. The E. window of the chancel is a beautiful specimen of flowing Dec. There are triple sedilia and two piscinæ all Dec., and the S. doorway and that leading into the vestry are fine examples of the same period. The font is Perp., richly ornamented.

At **Dallington**, 1 m. N.W. of Northampton, the *Church*, dedicated to St. Mary (restd. 1880), is a small E. E. edifice, perhaps built by Geoffrey de Lucy, the first of nine generations of that family who held the manor. It was afterwards the property of R. Raynsford, one of Charles I.'s judges, who did not sign the king's death-warrant, but was imprisoned in the Tower for life, and died there in 1667. His son, Sir Rich. Raynsford, became Chief Justice of England in 1676 (d. 1679), and is buried in the church, beneath a gorgeous monument of black and white marble. The chancel with a low-side window on the S. side was rebuilt by Earl Spencer, the patron of the living, in 1883. The pulpit is Jacobean. The present *Dallington Hall* (Rt. Hon. C. R. Spencer) was built by Sir Joseph Jekyll, Master of the Rolls, who at his death, in 1745, left his fortune for the reduction of the national debt. A quantity of fragments of Roman and British pottery was found in this parish in the bank of a railway cutting, and probably indicate the site of a small manufactory of rough ware, inferior, both in material and workmanship, to the Castor pottery. Similar

pottery has been discovered within the enclosure of Northampton Castle, associated with Saxon and Norman fragments. It is very remarkable that the same manufacture, the same materials, make, and patterns, continued all along through so many centuries and so many changes.

A little S.W. of Dallington is Duston. The *Church* of St. Luke consists of a Dec. chancel, an E. E. nave, with a clerestory lighted on one side only, and aisles, and a central embattled tower. In the chancel are some curiously carved corbels and a piscina. The plain massive font is probably Norm. There is a stoup near the S. door. There was formerly an abbey for Black Canons here, founded at the beginning of the 12th cent. Samian fragments, bronze relics, paving tesserae, coins ranging from Nerva to the sons of Constantine the Great, and skeletons have been found here, marking probably the site of a Roman villa.

1 m. N.E., on the Wellingborough road, is *Abington Abbey* (so called—it was never a religious house). It was long the property of the Bernards and Thursbys, and contains some Tudor portions, although the main house was built by the Thursby who bought the place in 1669. There is a lofty hall, partly of this date. The grounds are pleasant, and adjoining a mulberry-tree on the lawn is an inscription running, "This tree was planted by David Garrick, Esq., at the request of Ann Thursby as a growing testimony of their friendship, 1778." Whether this tree is a slip from Shakespeare's mulberry does not appear; but it may be supposed that the planting was suggested by the fact that Shakespeare's granddaughter, Elizabeth, daughter of John Hall and Susanna Shakespeare, lived and died here (Feb.

1669–70), as the wife of Sir John Bernard—who, in the year of her death sold Abington to William Thursby. Her burial here is recorded (Feb. 17); but she has no memorial in the church. The abbey and grounds were presented by Lady Wantage to the Corporation of Northampton, and opened to the public in 1897. The *Church* of St. Peter and St. Paul, standing within the grounds, was rebuilt (except the tower, which is Norm. and Perp.) in 1821, and contains several Thursby monuments. The rich pulpit is of the 17th cent. The font, with cover, is a good specimen of Perp. work. There is an altar-tomb to Edmund Hampden (d. 1625).

1½ m. further is the little Trans.-Norm. and Perp. *Church* of St. Peter (restored in 1881) at **Weston Favell**, picturesquely situated among fine trees and pleasant woodland scenery. The chancel arch is Norm., and the tower is throughout Trans.-Norm. The spire fell down in 1726 and destroyed the N. aisle, which was rebuilt in 1881. Here is a curious piece of needlework, wrought by a Lady Holman, in 1698, and representing the Passover. Above are the words "Gloria Deo"; below, "Weston Favell, December, 1698." James Hervey, author of the once well-known 'Meditations among the Tombs,' was rector of Weston Favell from 1752 till his death in 1759; he lies buried within the altar rails. He was a native of the neighbouring parish of Hardingstone. In his day, and after the publication of his books, there was a throng of pilgrims to the place, and it is said that "Weston Favell was almost as well known as London."

At **Kingsthorpe**, 1½ m. N. on the Leicester road, the *Church*, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, consists of a chancel with N. and S. chapels, a nave with aisles, and a



restored clerestory, and a 15th cent. tower and spire at the W. end. There are three small (supposed Saxon) windows, and the piers and arches of the nave are Trans.-Norm. The aisles were rebuilt and the church restored in 1863. Under the E. end of the chancel is a crypt with a vaulted roof, supported by a central pillar. The church contains six piscinæ, two in the chancel, one with a lancet arch, and two in each of the side chapels; also three ambries—one in the chancel, and one in each of the chapels; that in the S. chapel probably retains its original door with iron hinges. The mouldings of the N. and W. doors are particularly good, and in the E. wall of the N. and S. chapels are typical E. E. windows. The church is exceedingly interesting, and contains good specimens of every period of architecture.

There are some ancient documents and chained books, including the 'Paraphrase' of Erasmus, Jewel's 'Apology,' and Fox's 'Book of Martyrs,' 3 vols, 2nd edition, with engravings.

In this village also are the remains of the Hospital of the Holy Trinity, and the Chapel of St. David's.

The road from Northampton to Kettering is through a pleasant country. At 4 m. a road branches l. to *Moulton* ( $\frac{1}{2}$  m.), where the *Church* of St. Peter and St. Paul has a good Dec. tower, but is otherwise uninteresting.

*Moulton Park*, formerly a royal park, now contains St. Andrew's Convalescent Asylum. The wall of this park was kept in repair by several parishes which had their respective portions allotted to them.

$\frac{1}{2}$  m. rt. of the main road is *Overstone Park* (J. H. Gartside, Esq., J.P.), the property of Lord Wantage, V.C., K.C.B. At the entrance to the park stands the gatehouse with arch and spiked cresting

removed from the old hall of Pytchley when that place was dismantled (see Rte. 9). That hall was long the place at which certain members of the Pytchley Hunt assembled during part of the season. The park is large and pleasant, much broken and well wooded. A large sheet of water gives it character, and adds to the beauty of the views, especially as seen from the windows of the house. This is modern (1862, *Teulon*, archit.), of Italian design, with a lofty central tower. There is a large library, where are the valuable collections of McCulloch of the 'Commercial Dictionary,' and other volumes of importance. Here are also many MS. letters and remains of Gray the poet; a volume of letters of the period of the Civil War, including many from Prince Rupert; and numerous drawings, plans, and prints, which formed part of Baker's collections for Northamptonshire. Trees and shrubs in the grounds and gardens are fine specimens. Overstone was bought in 1844 by Lewis Loyd, Esq., from whom it passed in 1858 to his only son, S. J. Loyd, Esq., who in 1850 was created Lord Overstone, taking his title from this place. He died in 1883, when the title became extinct. The estate now belongs to Lord Wantage through marriage.

The old church of *Overstone* stood in front of the former manor-house, which occupied the site of the present house. The existing *Church* of St. Nicholas stands near one of the entrances to the park, and was built by John Kipling, Esq., in 1807. It contains a large "parlour" or pew; some memorial tablets, including one for John Kipling, which states that "this church, which was built at his sole expense, will best perpetuate his memory"; and church "books" given by a Cust (former

owners of the place) who was Speaker, and on going out of office had the privilege of removing those used in the House of Commons.

The E. window is filled with good ~~Dutch~~ <sup>German</sup> glass, the subject of one of the compartments being the Baptism of our Lord.

### The Route by Road.

The route by road from London to Northampton is along the Holyhead old coach road to Stony Stratford (52 $\frac{3}{4}$  m., see *H. Bk. for Bucks*), and branching off to the rt. at Old Stratford (53 $\frac{1}{4}$  m.), where the road enters the county, through Yardley Gobion (56 $\frac{1}{4}$  m.) and Grafton Regis

(57 $\frac{1}{2}$  m.), where Edward IV. was privately married and where Henry VIII. had a hunting-lodge (see Rte. 7). Skirting Stoke Park and crossing the Grand Junction Canal near Stoke Bruerne, Roade is reached (61 m.), crossing the L. & N. W. Rly. at the Stat. Further on is Courteenhall Park on the rt. At 64 m. is Wootton, and at 66 $\frac{1}{2}$  m. Northampton. There is another road from London to Northampton, *via* Woburn and Newport Pagnell (see *H. Bks. for Beds and Bucks*), which enters the county to the E. of Salcey Forest, and after passing Horton and Hackleton, reaches ★ Northampton (65 $\frac{3}{4}$  m.). Queen Eleanor's Cross, near Hardingsstone, is passed by both routes.

## ROUTE 2.

### NORTHAMPTON TO PETERBOROUGH.

(LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RLY. 43 $\frac{1}{2}$  m.)

Rail.	Stations.
	Northampton (Castle Stat.).
5 m.	Billing.
7 $\frac{3}{4}$ m.	Castle Ashby and Earl's Barton.
12 m.	WELLINGBOROUGH.
14 m.	Ditchford Bridge.
16 $\frac{1}{2}$ m.	Higham Ferrers and Irthlingborough.
19 m.	Ringstead and Addington.
22 m.	THRAPSTON.
24 $\frac{3}{4}$ m.	Thorpe.
27 $\frac{3}{4}$ m.	Barnwell.
30 $\frac{1}{2}$ m.	OUNDLE.
34 $\frac{1}{2}$ m.	Elton.
37 m.	Wansford.
38 $\frac{1}{2}$ m.	Castor.
40 $\frac{1}{4}$ m.	Overton.
43 $\frac{1}{2}$ m.	PETERBOROUGH.

This line of Rly., which follows for the most part the valley of the *Nene* (the name is said to be a corruption of "Aune," or "Avon," but this seems more than doubtful), will enable the tourist to visit, from its different stations, some of the most

important and interesting of the many fine churches for which Northamptonshire is famous. "The Saxon tower of Earls Barton; the complete E. E. church of Warmington, with its wooden vaulting and exquisite capitals; the unique octagon of Stanwick; the lanterns of Lowick, Irthlingborough, and Fotheringhay; the spires of Raunds, Rushden, and Irchester; Finedon, perfect in the best style; Strixton, the model of an earlier one; the fine steeple of Oundle, are but selections out of a line of churches, some but little inferior, terminating in the grand W. front and more solemn interior of Peterborough Cathedral."—*Canon James*. The *Nene*, N.E. of Northampton, is a deep-flowing stream, full of windings and reaches, with a broad level of pasture and corn



land on either side of it. From this level, both rt. and l., rises a ridge of high ground, always raised above the overflowing of the river, which was frequently destructive before the drainage of the North Level of the Fens, and the construction by Telford and Rennie, in 1830, of a new "Nene outfall," carried through the sandbanks into the deep water of the Wash. On the ridge, thus safe from inundation, were founded some of the most ancient settlements in the county. The course of the Nene was one of the high roads into the centre of England; and although no main Roman way seems to have been driven through the valley, there was a small camp at Irchester, besides many villas; and coins have been found everywhere.

"Terrace gravels" occur on the hilly sides of the Nene valley (toward Kingsthorpe, and northward in the direction of Peterborough), identical with the gravel in the valley of the Ouse near Bedford. Remains of enormous mammalia have been found in them, including two species of elephant: one of which must have been of great size. An enormous tusk, 10 ft. long and 2 ft. in circumference at the base, found at Orton Longueville in Hunts, near Peterborough, is preserved by the Marchioness of Huntly.

Leaving Northampton from Castle Stat. and passing Bridge St. (Stat.), the line reaches at

5 m. Billing (Stat.). Little Billing is 1 m. N.W. of the Stat. The *Church* of All Saints is indifferent Perp., and is only interesting for its remarkable *font* (fig. by VanVoorst), which is very rude Norm., shaped like a tall jar, and bearing an inscription (which seems to be imperfect) earlier than that on the font of Keysoe, in Bedfordshire (see *H. Bk. for Beds.*). It runs: Wilberh-

[Northamptonshire.]

tv̄s artifex atq. Cementarius h̄nc fabricavit. Quisquis sv̄m venit mergere corp̄s procvl dv̄bio capit." The manor of Little Billing belonged for a considerable period to the Longuevilles, and the remains of their house (early 16th cent.) are still conspicuous in the village.

The *Church* of St. Andrew (restd. 1867) at Great Billing, 1½ m. N. of the Stat., is of more interest. It seems to have been rebuilt in early Dec. times, and the piers and capitals of the nave, of that period, are somewhat unusual. A single Norm. capital and base show that there had been an earlier church. The tower, early Dec., is of three stories, and was originally surmounted by a spire, which was destroyed by lightning in 1759. The existing parapet belonged to an old house of the Earls of Thomond, taken down in 1776. *Billing Hall* (V. D. H. Cary-Elwes, Esq., J.P.) occupies the site of this house.

The pedestrian may cross the Nene by a bridge a little above Little Billing, and return to Northampton by Little and Great Houghton—distance about 5 m.

Little Houghton stands high, and commands a good view over the Nene valley. The *Church* of St. Mary, except the tower, was rebuilt in 1873 (*Buckeridge*, archt.) in early Dec. style, and the arcade was copied, to some extent, from a Dec. arch opening to the tower. This is late E. E., with an arcade round the first story above the roof. W. of the churchyard are the moat and foundations of a manor-house, which long remained in the family of Zouche. The ancient stocks still stand in the middle of the village. *Houghton Hall* (Mrs. Smyth). On the rt. bank of the Nene, in this parish, and close to an ancient ford, is *Clifford Hill*, a circular mount, surrounded by a deep ditch. Roman coins have been

found here, and the mount commands a very wide view. Leland describes it as "a greate round hille as a bullewark of warre, yn the medes by Northampton town."

The *Church* of St. Mary at Great Houghton was, perhaps, built toward the end of the last century, and is of the worst type; the tower has a spire, supported on an octagonal erection, with pillars.

About  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m. N.E. from Great Billing, on the Wellingborough road, is the village of Ecton. The *Church* of St. Mary Magdalen is an E. E. edifice with an embattled W. tower. There are remains of a rood-loft, and in a chapel at the end of the S. aisle is a monument to the Isted family. The old *Saxon font* was found in the yard of the Rectory farm. The chimes are over 200 years old and play two tunes—one on Sundays and one on weekdays. In the churchyard are buried Thomas Franklin and his wife Eleanor. He was the uncle of Benjamin Franklin, and was born at Ecton, his father being a blacksmith in the village.

*Ecton Hall*, in a fine situation, is the seat of Major-Gen. F. E. Sotheby.

$7\frac{3}{4}$  m. Castle Ashby and Earl's Barton (Stat.). The celebrated *Church* of All Saints at Earl's Barton, on the N. bank of the Nene, is  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m. from the Stat. The pleasant, tree-shadowed road passes an old mill on the river, probably the "Earl's mill." The manor was held by the Earls of Northamptonshire before the Conquest, and afterwards by the Earls of Huntingdon, passing to them through the 2nd marriage of the daughter of Judith and Waltheof. The church, with its remarkable tower, fronts the road in approaching, and stands on high ground, which has been partly

scarped, and which was probably the "motte" or mound of an old English "strong" house. A deep fosse, still perfect, encloses the mound and churchyard on the N. side. The tower of the church is by common consent termed Saxon, and there can be little doubt but that it was in existence before Simon of Senlis became lord of the district. It gives at once the strongest impression of antiquity, massive and sombre, built of the rudest rubble; whilst the angle-quoins of long-and-short work, and the lines and bands of stone carried all over the surfaces, are of the native oolite, full of shells (compare *Barnack*, Rte. 3, which is of similar character). The rough stonework is covered with plaster. In the lowest stage, S., is a balustred window, with a cross at the side; and the openings for light are cross-shaped. The western door, with its capitals (if they are so to be called), the round arches and triangles of stone along the sides, and the ranges of balustred lights in the topmost story (under the battlement, which is a late addition), are all characteristic of this "Romanesque" work, and all occur in other churches older than the Conquest. The stone banding has been regarded as an imitation of wooden construction, or "stone carpentry;" but, however this may be, the tower is one of those which were built in the 11th cent., as in the 7th, "*juxta Romanorum morem.*" Their builders "followed Roman models, not only by some vague tradition, but by a conscious imitation of the buildings, whether of the Eternal City itself, or of the hardly less renowned cities of Lombardy and Tuscany." Mr. E. A. Freeman has pointed out that towers like this of Earl's Barton—tall, square, hard, unbuttressed, with the mid-wall shafts of their windows, and their rude enrichment of square strips and long-and-short work—occur on the



Continent in groups, as in the heart of the Pyrenees, gathering round the striking minster of St. Aventin, in the Burgundian abbey of St. Maurice, built 1014, and in the great Swabian abbey of Schaffhausen. Towers of the same type occur in every part of Germany, and the banks of the Main and the Alpine pass from Innsbrück to Trent are set thick with them. "So close a likeness in such distant spots could hardly be the result of accident: it could hardly be the result of copying from one another. Earl's Barton and St. Aventin were not likely to seek their models at Schaffhausen, and Schaffhausen was still less likely to seek its models either at Earl's Barton or at St. Aventin. But all roads lead alike to and from Rome . . . . The likeness among the various forms of Romanesque architecture answers to the likeness among the various dialects of the Romance speech, and is to be accounted for in the same way . . . . The smaller and ruder examples of Italian towers are identical with those in our own land. There are towers at Verona and at Lincoln which might change places without either seeming to be in a strange land; and if Schaffhausen and St. Maurice seem like glorified forms of our own rude Saxon towers, the great St. Zeno seems like a glorified form of Schaffhausen and St. Maurice."—*E. A. Freeman* ('*Fort. Rev.*', Oct. 1872. See also, on the "*Hist. of the Romanesque*," *Freeman's 'Norm. Conquest*,' vol. v., ch. 26).

The body of the church is of various dates, Norm., E. E., Dec., and Perp. The S. portal is Norm., and recedes in three orders, much enriched, one having the bird's beak ornament. The nave arcade is Dec., the piers octangular on the S. side; on the N. shafted, and graceful. A pointed arch, with billet-moulding, opens to the tower; the squared piers seem Norm., and have been

crushed by the weight above them. There is a Perp. clerestory. The aisle windows are all late Dec. A Norm. arcade lines the walls of the long and narrow chancel, the arches enriched with zigzag. On the S. side the arcade rises for sedilia in three arches, and has been cut through for a window, below. On the N. side a modern organ chamber has been built with wide arch, open to the chancel. The E. window is a lofty E. E. triplet, under a containing arch, with side shafts. Some of the old corbel-heads found in restoring the battlement of the chancel have been used for supporting the roof of the organ chamber.

It is evident that the tower was a strong place of defence. The view from its summit, and from the churchyard below, across the Nene valley, is wide and striking: Castle Ashby is in full sight, as are the churches of Grendon, Easton Maudit, Bozeat, and Whiston; whilst from the tower may be seen Brafield, Cogenhoe, Wollaston, and St. Matthew's, at Northampton.

Castle Ashby lies about 2 m. from the Stat. on the high ground above the S. bank of the river. Except perhaps that of Rockingham Castle, the position of CASTLE ASHBY (Marquis of Northampton) is finer than that of any other great house in the county. Nearly all the Northamptonshire houses stand low. From the terrace in front of Castle Ashby a wide view is commanded over a great part of the valley of the Nene, and the opposite heights of the winding river more wooded than usual, marked by the towers and spires of many churches. There is a foreground of park, full of groups of fine trees; but this home park is less interesting than the wilder thickets of Yardly Chase, which is only separated from it by the Bedford road.

There was a small castle here, which Leland describes as "now clene down, and made a septum for beasts," of which the only remaining vestige is a well, lined with solid masonry, close below the terrace on which stands the present house. This castle represented the manor-house, "crenellated" by Walter de Langton, Bp. of Coventry and Lichfield, 34th Edw. I., and at that time lord of the manor. The existing house, which now encloses a quadrangle, was begun by the 1st Lord Compton, in the reign of Elizabeth, and the eastern corner, with the towers and much of the interior of the quadrangle, are of this date. The Elizabethan house consisted of a centre and two projecting wings. Inigo Jones added a façade containing a chapel and long gallery—thus forming a fourth side to the courtyard. All this portion remains. The whole group of buildings is very picturesque; and the use of the lettered balustrade, rare in England, adds much to the effect. This is formed by the words "Nisi Dominus ædificaverit," &c. (Psalm cxxvii., verses 1, 2); and the earlier example has been happily followed in recent works here, as in the balustrade of the garden, and the ornaments of the gates and lodges, the latter bearing the motto "Dominus custodiat introitum" (and nearer the house, 'exitum') "tuum" (see *post*). These inscriptions are also on the battlement outside and inside the façade of Inigo Jones. (The house is fully described and figured in Campbell's 'Vitruvius Britannicus,' by P. F. Robinson.)

Castle Ashby has been in the hands of the present family since the reign of Henry VIII., when it was bought, with other estates, from the 3rd Earl of Kent, by Sir William Compton, the representative of an ancient house long settled at Compton Winyates in Warwick-

shire. Sir William was high in office under King Henry, and commanded the rear-guard at Tournay. His son died under age, but left, by a daughter of the Earl of Shrewsbury, a son named Henry, who in the eighth year of Elizabeth became the first *Baron Compton*. His eldest son and successor was created *Earl of Northampton*. The 2nd Earl, Spencer, was a brave and distinguished royalist, and fell, surrounded by the enemy, in the battle of Hopton Heath, 1643, a loss, says Clarendon, "for which a greater victory had been an unequal recompense." His son the third Earl also did good service at this time, especially by the relief of Banbury. Their descendant was created *Marquis of Northampton* in 1812. The present is the 5th Marquis and 13th Earl.

There are some interesting *Pictures* at Castle Ashby. In the *Great Hall* (rebuilt, or at least modernised, by Inigo Jones), among other portraits, is a large picture by *West*, of the 8th Earl of Northampton, with his Countess, son and daughter. This was the earl who took so active a part in the "spendthrift election," at it was called: that for the borough of Northampton, in 1768. "Lords Halifax, Northampton, and Spencer pitted their candidates against each other, being severally Osborn, Rodney, and Howe. The polling lasted fourteen days, but the canvassing had begun long before; and although the number of real electors did not exceed 930, 1149 votes were given. Horton, Castle Ashby, and Althorp were thrown open to all voters, and when they had drained the cellars of Horton of all the old port, and Lord Halifax had to place his claret before them, they declared that they would never vote for a man who gave them sour port, and went over in a body to Castle Ashby. The election was referred



to a scrutiny of the House of Commons, which was then a committee of the whole House, and for six weeks during the inquiry sixty covers were daily laid at Spencer House for members, whose names were taken down. It resulted in the numbers being equal, and was finally decided by a toss, Lord Spencer winning, and nominating a man out in India. It is said to have cost Lord Spencer 100,000*l.*, and each of the other lords 150,000*l.* each—incredible sums, if they are to be doubled to express the present value. Lord Northampton cut down his trees and sold his furniture at Compton Winyates, went abroad for the rest of his life, and died in Switzerland. There is a sealed box at Castle Ashby marked 'Election Papers,' which no one of the present generation has had the courage to open."—*Rev. Canon James.*

In the *Great Saloon*, called *King William's Dining Room*, in honour of William III., who was entertained here in 1695, by the 4th Earl, is a fine chimney-piece, dated 1601, and brought from Sir John Spencer's house at Canonbury. It is of carved wood, with figures of Prudence, Justice, Temperance, Faith, Hope, and Charity. The very fine ceiling, of the same date, was erected, it is said, by his daughter, wife of the 1st Earl of Northampton. The following are the most important pictures: Spencer Compton, 2nd Earl of Northampton, killed at Hopton Heath, Staffordshire, March 19, 1643 (see *ante*), a very fine portrait by *Janssens*. The first Earl, William, who built much of the present house. He received his earldom from James I. in 1618. Henry, Lord Compton, temp. Eliz. (This picture has been engraved in *Lodge*. He sat as a peer on the trial of Queen Mary of Scotland, and began to build the existing house.) A remarkable and power-

ful picture said to represent the Duke of Buckingham after his murder by Felton, and assigned to *Van Dyck*. Sir John Talbot, 1st Earl of Shrewsbury, the great soldier who was baffled at the siege of Orleans by Joan of Arc, and who fell with his son in the battle at Châtillon, July 20, 1453, aged 80. This is the Talbot of Shakespeare's 'Henry VI.' His body was found on the battle-field by his herald, who had served him forty years, and who, taking off his tabard, flung it over his dead master. There is a replica of this picture in the *Heralds' College*. Margaret Beauchamp, Countess of Salisbury, wife of John Talbot (d. 1468). This is a portrait of the same character as the former, still and hard, but of the highest interest, since they are among the earliest portraits in this country. A fine bust of Spencer Perceval, killed in the lobby of the House of Commons by Bellingham in 1812, and some superb pieces of modern majolica, should also be noticed. In the *Dining Room* are—Mrs. Drummond Smith, by *Romney*; a curious portrait of Anne, Countess of Dorset and Montgomery, painted in 1603, æt. 13; Henry Compton, 6th son of the 2nd Earl, who became successively Bishop of Oxford and of London (d. 1713); and portraits of the late Marquis of Northampton and of his wife, by *Buckner*. Here are also some good cabinet Dutch pictures; three by *Gerard Dow* and two by *Ostade*.

The *Library* contains an early Shakespeare, and a copy of Miles Coverdale's Bible, 1535, but no other books calling for special notice here.

On the *entrance to the Grand Staircase*, among other portraits, are a full-length of Bp. Compton, and one of the 3rd Earl (d. 1681); and on the wall over the staircase is the 1st Marquis, with his son,

by *Copley*. The tapestries here, illustrative of the Deluge, are by Paul Nieuwenhove. There are many family portraits in the *China Room*, and the *Dutch Wedding Room* is so called from the principal piece of tapestry which hangs on its walls, and represents the festivities of a wedding.

At the W. corner of the ground-floor is a panelled room, painted green, with trophies and other ornaments in green and gold. The ceiling is good: and over the chimney-piece are the arms of Spencer Lord Northampton, and his wife, with palm branches. Where was once a window, a recess has been formed, with a place of concealment above it. The whole may possibly have been Inigo Jones's work.

There is some very rich and peculiar Italian needlework in the *State Bedroom*, and some fine Italian tapestry in other apartments. In the house is an important collection of Etruscan vases. Among other relics also preserved here are the *Clephane horn*, of ivory, perhaps of the 11th cent., and very curious, and the *iron hand and arm* made by some ingenious "armourer" to supply the loss sustained by a knight of the Clephanes in the battle of Largs, 1263. These relics came to Castle Ashby by the marriage of the 2nd Marquis with the eldest daughter of Major-Gen. Douglas Maclean Clephane. (The iron hand has been more than once referred to and described by Sir Walter Scott, whose friendship with the house of Maclean Clephane is commemorated in Lockhart's Life.)

The *Garden*, on the S. side of the house, is of very great beauty, and is one of the best examples of "bedding out," the design being not geometrical, but flowing. Looking down on it, when the beds are in full blaze of colour, the effect resembles that of the richest stained

glass. There are some excellent vases and balustrades of terra-cotta, from the works of Blashfield at Stamford—the colour especially good. The balustrades form inscriptions, one referring to the late Marchioness of Northampton, another with the words "Consider the lilies of the field." The wall of the *Kitchen Garden*, rising at intervals into a sort of crow step, and thus breaking the regularity, was designed by *Godwin*; and here is a large and striking conservatory, with much architectural character, built from the combined design of Sir Digby Wyatt and the late Marquis. The *Pinetum*, with some very fine specimens, is of about sixty-five years' growth. There are in the grounds some very large cedars, one of which, planted in 1760, has been much shattered, but is still a most picturesque tree.

Very near the house is the small but very interesting *Church* of St. Mary Magdalen, with a Norm. doorway on the N. side (figured in the 'Glossary'), a Dec. N. aisle, and a Perp. nave, S. aisle, and chancel. The whole was restored by *Street*, who placed new roofs throughout. The pulpit, a very good design, is supposed to be by *Inigo Jones*. At the W. end of the nave is placed an "Angel of the Resurrection," by *Tenerani*, with trumpet; below is the inscription, "Marmoris hoc sculpti eloquens silentium spe futuri Patri Carissimo dicavit filius N. d. 1851." It thus forms a memorial of the 2nd Marquis. Under an arch in the N. aisle is a monument designed by *Marochetti* for the wife of the Hon. F. L. Gower, 2nd daughter of the 2nd Marquis, a very graceful figure. In a wall-recess above, well designed by a pupil of Scott, is placed a sculptured angel. The monument of Lady Northampton (d. 1830), is by *Tenerani*; that of Lord Northampton



(1st Marquis), (d. 1828), is by *Blore*. The church also contains some modern stained glass, a cross-legged effigy in chain-mail, which may perhaps be that of David de Esseby (Ashby), living in 1265, and a large *brass* of a rector, William de Ermine (d. 1401), in a cope, with figures of saints. There is a very fine yew in the churchyard, which is much overshadowed by other trees. The monuments of Wilhelm von Normann, "born at Castle Ashby, 1830, died in the hands of the Chinese, 1860;" of Alexander Sanders, husband of Ann Draper (d. 1818,) queen of the gipsies; and some beautiful ironwork round a tomb under the yew-tree, said to be that of the wife of a blacksmith, by whom the iron was wrought—should all be noticed.

Very fine gates of Italian ironwork, brought from Padua, and set in piers of terra-cotta, richly decorated with the monogram, *arms*, and motto of Lord Northampton, by *Wyatt*, open from the lawn adjoining the house to an avenue, which, extending about 1 m. to the entrance from the Bedford road, was continued by the late Marquis in a direct line for 2 m. farther, into the heart of **YARDLEY CHASE**. This is a very extensive level tract of woodland of green "ridings" (as the turf full roads are called), open lawns, and wood of various ages, some of the chief roads having been planted all along the borders with spruce and Scotch fir. The visitor to the Chase should make eventually (however wide a circuit in the wood he may first choose to traverse) for the group of venerable oaks, among which is the tree known as "Cowper's." A public road runs to these from Yardley Hastings. The Chase itself, a surviving relic of those many tracts of forest which once abounded in Northamptonshire, affords pleasant wandering through

the paths and alleys of the jay-haunted wood. The most ancient and noticeable oak-trees are near a farm on the S.E. outskirt, and a short drive through fields leads thence into the high road very near the village of Yardley Hastings. There are three of these oaks in an open lawn, fringed by younger growth; the largest and most shattered is that called "Cowper's," and to it is attached the following notice: "Out of respect to the memory of the poet Cowper, the Marquis of Northampton is particularly desirous of preserving this oak. Notice is hereby given that any persons defacing or otherwise injuring it will be prosecuted according to law." The tree is a most picturesque ruin, wonderfully suggestive of great age. From the hollow trunk (about 30 ft. in circumference at a yard from the ground), in which many persons may stand at once, rise two or three bare limbs, and as many more bearing fresh green leaves. It is not lofty, and the whitened inner wood contrasts sharply with the lichens and knots of the portion that preserves its bark. This is the tree (at least it has always been so regarded) on which Cowper moralises in his unfinished poem of the 'Yardley Oak,' found among his papers, and not published until after his death. (The oak, it may be remarked, is not more than 3 m. distant from Olney and Weston Underwood (see *H. Bk. for Beds.*), and the greater part of the walk, which the poet may often have taken, might lie through a portion of the Chase.) He is not quite accurate when he describes it as—

"Survivor sole, and hardly such, of all  
That once lived here, thy brethren, at thy  
birth,"

for it still has a brace of companions, and there are others near at hand; but the whole expression of the

tree has been transferred to the poet's verses:—

"Thou wast a bauble once; a cup and ball  
Which babes might play with; and the  
thievish jay,  
Seeking her food, with ease might have  
purlined  
The auburn nut that held thee, swallow-  
ing down  
Thy yet close-folded latitude of boughs,  
And all thy embryo vastness at a gulp."

In passing from this group of oaks toward Yardley Hastings, two very large oak-trees, known as "Gog and Magog," are seen l. near a farm. They are much shattered, but the former is larger than Cowper's oak, and is supposed to have been planted by Judith. This whole neighbourhood is forest ground, and the distant views are all woodland.

**Yardley Hastings**, on the high road from Northampton to Bedford, and about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. S. of Castle Ashby, is a large village, extending over broken ground and interspersed with trees. The church and the remains of the manor-house here should be visited. Yardley belonged to the Earls of Northampton before the Conquest, and passed with the earldom of Huntingdon, which the daughter of Waltheof and Judith carried by her second marriage to David, brother of King Alexander of Scotland. It came at last to Ada, daughter of David, Earl of Huntingdon, who died 1219. She married Henry of Hastings, and Yardley continued in this great house (which gave its name to the manor)—Lords of Bergavenny and Earls of Pembroke—till it passed by marriage with an heiress to Reginald de Grey of Ruthen, whose descendant, Richard, Earl of Kent, sold it to Sir William Compton, ancestor of the Marquis of Northampton, the present possessor.

The *Church*, dedicated to St. Andrew (perhaps an indication of the old Scottish connection, though two

parts of the tithes belonged to the priory of St. Andrew, in Northampton), is for the most part Dec. of more than one period, except the massive tower, which is, perhaps, Norm. The main arcade is Early Dec., as is the clerestory. All the nave windows are square-headed Dec., and an internal string-course runs along at their base. Remark a fine bracket with oak-leaves at the end of the S. aisle. The chancel has late Dec. windows (E. and two S.), and rich sedilia now restored, of the same period. In the N. wall, however, are traces of round-headed lights, and it is therefore evident that the original Norm. wall is here retained. There are Norm. lights in the belfry-story of the tower, and on the S. front a small round-headed window opens close at the side of the larger. In the chancel is a memorial for John Wilson, rector from 1649 to 1695, and one of greater interest, for the antiquary and Saxon scholar, Edward Lye, thirty years rector, "*vir summæ scientiæ . . . præsertim in linguis et antiquitatibus Septentrionalibus.*" He was born at Totnes, in Devonshire, in 1694, and died in 1767, æt. 73. His great work, the '*Anglo-Saxon and Gothic Dictionary*,' was compiled here at Yardley, but was not published until after his death. "All the Club subscribes," wrote Johnson to Bennet Langton in 1766. The old oak door should be noticed.

The church was, no doubt, the work of the Lords Hastings, and adjoining it, on the N. side, is the so-called "Castle," a manor-house, which must have been of considerable size and importance. What now remains is a square building, with portions of arches at either end. On the N. side are two good Dec. arches, opening to vaults (?), and on the S. a Dec. window, square-headed, like those in the church. The remains are, therefore, a mere fragment, and it



is difficult to infer from them what was the general plan. Church and manor-house seem to have been rebuilt about the same time. The situation, with the great Chase spreading round, must have been pleasant enough.

A cross road from Yardley Hastings leads to **Easton Maudit**, or **Mauduit**, about 2 m., where is a very interesting church, well restored, and not to be neglected by the antiquary, for whom this place should have an especial attraction, since for many years (he was appointed in 1753, and did not resign the living until 1782) the vicarage was the home of Dr. Percy, afterwards Bishop of Dromore, editor of the famous 'Reliques of Ancient Poetry,' the ballad-book which was given to the world in 1765, from Easton Maudit. Shenstone and Garrick were frequent guests here; Johnson, Goldsmith, and others of that well-known society more than once visited Percy here; and although the vicarage has undergone some alteration, it has not been so completely remodelled as to have lost all memorial of that period. (The portrait of Bp. Percy, by *Abbot*, and his correspondence are still preserved at Ecton, near Northampton, by the descendant of the bishop's daughter. The veritable MS. folio from which the 'Reliques' were taken was also long preserved at Ecton; but after the edition of *Furnival* and *Hales* had been printed verbatim from it, it was placed in the Library of the British Museum.) At that time there was a large manor-house not far from the church, of which there are now no traces. It belonged to the Longueville Earls of Sussex, and was full of interesting portraits. There was also a large and important library, containing many early printed books and MSS., collected partly by Sir Henry Yelverton in the reign of James I., and partly by

another Henry Yelverton, the 1st Lord Longueville. Christopher Yelverton bought the manor temp. Elizabeth. He was a Judge of the Queen's Bench and Speaker of the House of Commons, representing Northamptonshire in Parliament. His son, Sir Henry, was patronised by Kerr, Earl of Somerset, and by the Duke of Buckingham, was a distinguished lawyer, and became a judge in 1625. His grandson, another Sir Henry, married Susanna Longueville, daughter and heiress of Lord Grey of Ruthen (see *H.Bk. for Bedfordshire*). Their eldest son died without issue; the second was created Viscount Longueville by William III., and his eldest son, in 1717, became Earl of Sussex. The name "*Mauduit*" commemorates earlier lords of the manor; the first of these was William Mauduit, Chamberlain of Henry I.

The *Church* of St. Peter and St. Paul contains memorials of the Yelvertons and their descendants. It is for the most part Early Dec., with a W. tower and fine spire, connected by flying buttresses, pierced with quatrefoils. The main arcade is very graceful, preserving much of E. E. character in the undercut of the capitals. The open tower-arch is somewhat later. The chancel is Early Dec. and has been restored at much cost, with a sculptured reredos and rich marble altar-rail. The *tiling* throughout the church calls for special notice, and is unusually successful in harmony and design. The ground tiles are dark-green, and in them are set others of various characters, many marked by a beacon, and the words "*Nisi Dominus custodiat,*" the crest and motto of the noble house of Northampton (the arrangement of the tiles is due to the Rev. Lord Alwyn Compton, now Bishop of Ely, who has made the subject his own). Before the chancel-steps is a cross inlaid in the tiling, with inscriptions

(preserving the record in the un-restored church) for three children of Thos. Percy, D.D., who died between 1770 and 1774. The modern pulpit has very good panels, carved with fruit and flowers. At the end of the N. aisle is the *Yelverton Chapel*. In the centre is the monument, with effigies, of Sir Christopher Yelverton (d. 1612), Elizabeth's Judge and Speaker (see *ante*), and of his wife, Mary Catesby (d. 1611). He wears the red judge's robe; she has a remarkable head-dress. At the side is the monument of his son, Sir Henry (d. 1629), with effigies of himself and his wife, Margaret Beale (d. 1625). Two venerable bedesmen, in black gowns and white beards, support the elaborate canopy, and an inscription records the many virtues of Sir Henry Yelverton, his "sweetnes of conversation, faithfulness in friendship, and comelines of person." There are slabs for Longuevilles, and some tattered banners and an achievement for Lord Grey of Ruthen, who died at Oxford in 1643. Theirs is the motto, "Foy en tout," which appears on the escutcheons. Not less interesting is a memorial for Thomas Morton, Bishop of Durham, driven from his see by the calamities of the Civil War. A refuge was afforded to him by more than one family, and he finally removed to the house of Sir Henry Yelverton, where he died, in 1659, in the 95th year of his age, the 44th of his episcopate. He had been successively Bishop of Chester and of Lichfield before his translation to Durham in 1632. The inscription on the slab was written by Dr. Barwick, who wrote also a short life of the bishop and preached his funeral sermon. Many of Bp. Morton's MSS. were preserved in the Sussex Library here. Bp. Morton left his silver-gilt paten and chalice (hall mark 1630) to the church, his initials are engraved on

them; and one of the Yelvertons gave a magnificent silver-gilt chased flagon (hall mark 1672), weighing 54 ounces; there are also two offertory basins (1661 and 1676). The whole forms a valuable set of communion-plate. The register contains some entries by an 18th cent. rector, amusingly characteristic of the subservience of the parson to his lordly patron.

The *Church* of St. Mary at **Bozeat**,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. E. of Easton Maudit, on the Wellingborough road, has an E. E. tower, with octagonal broach spire. The body of the church is Dec., with Perp. insertions, and a Tudor rood-screen remains.

**Strixton**,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. N. on the main road. The *Church* of St. John the Baptist is thoroughly E. E.; and, although small (it has only nave and chancel), is an excellent architectural model. The E. end has triple lancets, with quatrefoils above them, one of which is pierced for light. All the other details are plain and simple. A sexfoil window above the W. door should especially be noticed. The proportions are excellent; and the restoration of 1874 did not altogether destroy the primitive character of the building.

**Whiston**,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.W. from Castle Ashby Stat., is pleasantly situated near the Nene. The *Church* of St. Mary is a late Perp. edifice with a lofty embattled tower. In the chancel is a monument to Anthony Catesby (d. 1553), the founder of the church. On the S. wall is a tablet by *Nollekens* to the Hon. Mary Irby (d. 1792). Tradition says that Place House, an old building, once belonged to King John.

$1\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.E. of Castle Ashby Stat. is the village of **Grendon**, pleasantly



situated on high ground overlooking the Nene valley. The *Church*, dedicated to St. James, is a handsome building with a massive and lofty tower; it has four Norm. arches and some E. E. and Dec. portions. There is a *brass* with figures of an unknown lady between two husbands, circa 1480, and another for John Mortimer, early in the same century. *Grendon Hall*, once the residence of Sir W. Compton, Constable of the Tower of London, and containing ancient tapestry, is situated on the lower side of the village, and is now a farmhouse.

Proceeding by rail, on the N. side of the river is **Great Doddington**. The *Church* of St. Luke (restd. 1871) has an E. E. tower. The chancel contains two sedilia, two piscinæ, and some old oak stalls. In the nave is a *brass* to William de Patteshull (d. 1359). A wall-painting of the Crucifixion was found on the S. side during the restoration. There are three chained books in the church, also an hour-glass stand, a Bible, dated 1613, the 'Paraphrase' of Erasmus, and the 'Homilies.'

12 m. ★ **WELLINGBOROUGH** (Stat.—also a Stat. on the main line of the Midland Rly. from London. See Rte. 9). The town stands about 1 m. N.W. of the Stat., on the hill-slope above the river. The approach from the Stat. is bordered by lime-trees, and is striking. Wellingborough occurs in Domesday Book as "Wendlesberie" and "Wedlingsberie," and the name is frequently written "Wendlyngburg." This has sometimes led to a confusion with Wendlebury, in Oxfordshire. It seems, therefore, improbable that the chalybeate spring called the "Red Well,"  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.W., can have given name to the town. There is a tradition that Charles I. and Queen Henrietta spent some time in tents erected on

the hill-side, for the sake of drinking this water. It is certain, from his journal, that Archbp. Laud, in 1626, waited on Queen Henrietta at Wellingborough, but this was at the inn, now pulled down, called the *White Swan*, in the Market-place. It does not appear whether it was the White Swan or the Hind which so grievously tried the nerves and the temper of Horace Walpole. "We lay," he writes in 1763, "at Wellingborough—pray never lie there—the beastliest inn upon earth is there! We were carried into a vast bed-chamber, which I suppose is the club-room, for it stunk of tobacco like a justice of the peace! I desired some boiling water for tea; they brought me a sugar-dish of hot water in a pewter plate."

Wellingborough is a large market-town, entirely without interest but for its church, and not too agreeable. Shoemakers abound, and the older trades of woollen and lace making have been entirely abandoned for what has become one of the staple businesses of Northamptonshire, which has greatly increased during the past quarter of a century.

The *Church* of St. Luke, Dec., with some Perp. alterations, is large and imposing, and has been restored throughout. It belonged to the abbey of Crowland from a period long before the Conquest, and so continued until the Dissolution. The tower and spire may perhaps be late E. E., as seems indicated by the W. doorway. There is a graceful corbel-table round the top of the tower, in the lower walls of which oolite is banded with the local ironstone. The upper part is entirely of oolite. The church itself is built throughout of ironstone. The nave, of four bays, is Dec.; the chancel (also of four bays) Perp. (except the E. window), and the greater part of the windows have been altered in that period. The chancel projects a single bay beyond the wide aisles.

(By an arbitration in the 7th year of Richard II., it was determined that the abbot and convent of Crowland were thenceforth to repair the chancel at their own costs, so that the Perp. rebuilding is, no doubt, due to them.) The stone brackets for carrying the original roof of the chancel remain, and in the angles of the E. window (geometrical Dec.) are the winged lion and angel, the symbols of the other two Evangelists having disappeared. The pictorial stained glass in this window commemorates "thirty years' ministry of Canon Broughton as vicar," date, 1871. Some good old screen-work divides the choir aisles from the chancel. The walls of the restored nave have been left rough, in what Horace Walpole calls "their native stonehood"—a questionable proceeding; but the low seats, and the general effect of colour throughout the edifice, are good. There is a small projecting chapel E. of the S. door, Perp., with a panelled ceiling, carved with the emblems of Our Lord's Passion. Over the S. door is the monument of "Sergeant Lingar," "Sergeant of the Bakehouse to Queen Elizabeth" (d. 1570). The exterior of the very graceful E. window deserves special notice. It has a hollow moulding, with grotesque heads, flowers, and foliage. Above is a canopied niche. At the dripstones of the arch are the angel and eagle; below, at the base, the bull and lion, all winged. The tracery is geometrical, and the date of the window about 1300. The communion-plate was given in 1634 by Sir Paul Pindar, who was born in Wellingborough, consul and ambassador in Turkey, and contributed very large sums to the restoration and adornment of Old St. Paul's, which had been nearly destroyed by fire during the reign of Elizabeth.

The other churches, All Saints and St. Barnabas, are modern buildings, and in the Ranelagh road is

the Roman Catholic Church dedicated to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

N.W. of the church is the *Free School*, founded temp. Edward VI. on the suppression of a guild of the Virgin. Edward Pickering, of Swasey, in Cambridgeshire, gave, as is recorded on a tablet over the door, 130*l.* to the school. On a tablet below are the words "Φιλομαθεσι multum debeo, 1619. Barbaris autem nihil." A schoolmaster was elected in 1687 who professed himself a Dissenter, and obtained a dispensation from King James to hold the school without qualifying according to law. He disappeared after the king's flight, and it was afterwards discovered that he was a Jesuit from St. Omer's. This building is now used as the Endowed Commercial School, a handsome new Grammar School having been erected on the London road. William Askham, the "Shoemaker Poet," was born here on July 20th, 1825; he wrote four volumes of poems and sonnets, and a volume of 'Sketches in Prose and Verse.' He was a working shoemaker all his life, and died here on October 28th, 1894.

There are extensive iron-works in the neighbourhood.

2 m. S.W. of Wellingborough on the Northampton road is Wilby. The *Church* of St. Mary is a stone edifice of various styles of architecture. The tower at the W. end has an octagonal lantern with flying buttresses and a spire, relieved by two tiers of spire lights. In the chancel are two sedilia and a piscina. There is another piscina in the aisle on the S. side. The N. aisle was taken down seventy years ago.

A Court Leet, dating back to Edward III., is held here every three years.

There was formerly a very old mansion, Wilby Hall, but was taken down a hundred years ago—the only



part of it remaining is the "dove house."

Irchester lies  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.E.; for description of this place, see Rte. 9.

2 m. W. of Wilby is **Mears Ashby**. The *Church* of All Saints has E. E. portions, and a modern chancel rebuilt on old foundations in 1858. There is an ancient font with elaborate carving very well preserved, and also the remains of an old fresco over the chancel arch, one of the "Doom" paintings, once so common. In the church are fragments of an Anglo-Saxon cross. *Mears Ashby Hall*, a Jacobean house, is the seat of H. M. Stockdale, Esq.

1 m. N.W. of Mears Ashby is **Sywell**, prettily situated in a wooded district. The *Church* of St. Peter and St. Paul is chiefly Dec. There are piscinæ in the chancel and the aisle. In the transept on the N. side is a hagioscope. The edifice was restored and partly rebuilt by Lord Overstone in 1870. There are several monuments, 17th and 18th cent., to the Willmer family. On the village green is a cross, recently restored. The *Hall* preserves two fronts of simple but elegant Elizabethan work.

*Hardwick* lies 3 m. N.W. from Wellingborough. The *Church* of St. Leonard is chiefly an E. E. edifice. In the chancel is an alabaster monument with effigies in brass to Sir Francis Nicolls, Bt. (d. 1641). In the nave there are four other brasses to William Nicolls (d. 1574), Anne Nicolls (d. 1591), Edward Bagshawe (d. 1620), and Henry Bagshawe (d. 1621). The Manor House, now a farm building, is said to have been a Preceptory of the Knights Templars.

**Wollaston**, a village  $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. S. from Wellingborough Stat. The *Church* of St. Mary is one of the few cruciform structures in the country; it has

a central tower supported by 14th-cent. arches (restd. 1885), with an octagonal spire. The N. side of the transept (restd. 1889) is a fine piece of 14th-cent. work. The rest of the church, with Doric columns, is 18th-cent. work. The entire building is a strange admixture of gracefulness and ugliness of architecture.

Leaving Wellingborough by rail, at

14 m. **Ditchford Bridge** (Stat.), where there is a good 14th-cent. bridge, the middle cut-water bearing the arms of Peterborough.

16½ m. **Higham Ferrers** and **Irthlingborough** (Stat.), from which the tourist may visit the churches of Higham Ferrers and Rushden, and that of Irthlingborough, N.W. An omnibus runs from the station through Higham Ferrers to Rushden. The spire of Higham Church is seen on the high ground, from which the town is 1 m. distant. The ridge on the rt. bank of the river is here lofty, and "Higham" is rightly named. Immediately N. of the Stat. is *Higham Bridge*, a very fine 13th-cent. (?) structure, with ribbed arches. Remark the deep projecting buttresses. The bridge has been widened on one side; and modern brick arches have been inserted above the old ones. A ladder leads from the bridge to the meadows below, and the tourist should descend it. On one of the buttresses, S., are the arms of Peterborough. The river abounds with jack and bream. (*Staunch* is the local name for a sort of flood-gate which may be seen on different parts of the Nene. It is used for drifting boats, &c., over shallow parts of the river. When dropped, it of course raises the water above it.)

Irthlingborough Church is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. beyond Higham Bridge, and is in sight (see *post*).

Higham *Mill*, large and substantial, lies on a cut from the Nene, rt., as the hill is ascended toward \**Higham Ferrers*. (There is another Stat. in the town on a branch line of the Midland Rly.) Here the interest is gathered round the remarkable group of buildings which Archbp. Chicheley raised in honour of his birthplace, and in gratitude for his own great fortunes. The church, the college, the cross, the school, and the bede-house all speak of him; and although it was the usual custom for a great prelate to remember in some such manner the place where he was born, there are few examples of so complete an offering. Higham is a small, faded borough, incorporated under Philip and Mary, though it had a mayor and other officers long before. Until the first Reform Bill it sent one member to Parliament, the right of election being "in all the housekeepers who received no alms." The manor was William Peverel's at the Domesday Survey, and passed from that family by inheritance in the first year of King John to William Ferrers, Earl of Derby, whose son and grandson held it, and gave their name to the place. On the attainder of Robert Ferrers in the 50th year of Henry III., this lordship was granted to the king's younger son, Edmund, Earl of Lancaster, and titular King of Sicily. His son, the great Earl Thomas of Lancaster, was beheaded at Pontefract in 1312; and the escheated manor and castle of Higham were given to Aymer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, but returned to Henry of Lancaster, younger brother of the beheaded earl, on the reversal of the latter's attainder. The son of this Earl Henry possessed Higham, but died, leaving two daughters only, one of whom married John of Gaunt, to whose share of the vast inheritance Higham Ferrers fell. Thus it came to the crown in the

person of Henry IV.; and the lordship, with the castle and hundred, were settled, in the fifth year of Henry V., on the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Durham, and some others. In this manner Archbp. Chicheley became in part lord of his native place, and was enabled to benefit and adorn it by his buildings. His parents had been persons of no great estate; and it is said that the future archbishop was found by William of Wykeham, in a field by the church, like Giotto by Cimabue, tending his father's flock. Wykeham educated him in his own colleges at Winchester and Oxford; and Chicheley, the founder himself of so many noble institutions at Oxford and elsewhere, lived to do honour to his patron's discrimination.

The *Castle* stood N. of the church, and was probably built by the Ferrers Earls. Of it there are no remains whatever, unless it be a portion of the moat.

The *Church* of St. Mary the Virgin is one of the finest in the county, and of especial interest from its associations. The great tower and spire rise grandly as the churchyard is entered. On the N. side, a little in advance of the tower, is the school-house; nearly opposite are the remains of a Dec. cross, raised on steps: and on the S. side of the churchyard is the Bede-house, or hospital. The original vicarage-house stands near the Bede-house, W., and completes this group of buildings.

The church, of which the ground-plan is somewhat unusual, consists at present of a nave and chancel, with S. aisle; of what may be termed a second nave and chancel, N. of the former; and of an additional N. aisle. The two chancels terminate in the same line. There are of course three ranges of piers, and the two naves are of equal width. The whole interior is fine and lofty, and



the great width of the church does not appear out of proportion. The chief points to be noticed are—the superb *W. portal* of the tower; the *Dec. windows*; the *stall work* in the *chancel*; and the *brasses*.

The church, as an examination shows at once, consisted at first of an E. E. nave, chancel, and aisles, with a W. tower. In the earlier Dec. period, about 1290, the N. aisle was altered and widened, so as to form what may now be called the second nave; and a Lady Chapel, forming a second chancel, was carried out to the eastern line of the true chancel, and was made of the same dimensions. At the same time the E. E. wall of the chancel was pierced with Dec. arches, opening into the Lady Chapel. An additional N. aisle was added somewhat later; the spire was built, new windows made nearly throughout the church, and the chancel especially transformed into Dec. These later changes were effected about 1340. The restoration of the whole building, which was carried out in 1863, is good; and there has certainly been no unnecessary destruction. The cleaning brought out the use of variously coloured stones in piers and arches, irregularly disposed, and not in those formal bands which are never agreeable.

The *Tower* and *Spire* became ruinous, and fell, in great part, in the first half of the 17th cent. They were rebuilt, Archbp. Laud contributing to the cost; but happily the work was done in rigid imitation of the original, and the greater part of the old material was used up again. Inscriptions on the exterior record that the “steeple was begun to be builded, April 20th, 1631,” and was finished in 1632, “Richard Atkins of Northamp. the workman.” The lower part of the tower, with the W. portal, does not seem to have suffered from the fall. The portal, like the rest of the tower, is E. E.,

but of rather foreign than English character. Like the W. portals of Raunds and of Rushden, it is set in a sort of shallow porch, but differs from them in having a double entrance divided by a shaft or pier, while the whole upper part, above the capitals of the great enclosing arch, is a massive closed tympanum. The heads of the doorways are formed by low segmental arches, having jambs and architraves richly moulded with foliage and small figures. The central shaft, of which the foliated termination is unusual, carries a squared base for a figure. The tympanum is filled with circles containing sculpture, with diaper work between them. The subjects are (N. side), the Salutation of Mary and Elizabeth; the Angel appearing to Zacharias; the Wise Men's Offering; Our Lord in the Temple; His Baptism; and (S. side), the Angels appearing to the Shepherds; the Crucifixion; the Annunciation; the Disciples at the Sepulchre (which is shown as a coffin resting on an E. E. trefoiled arcade, through which are seen the soldiers, as in an Easter sepulchre), and the Descent into Hell. The outer enclosing arch rises from foliated capitals; and the vault of the shallow porch is richly diapered. All this work is in Barnack stone; and the diapering, figures, and other ornaments, have been painted. One original buttress remains at the N.W. angle; the others are 17th-cent. work. A much mutilated, but very beautiful arcade, with a window, extends along one stage of the N. side of the tower. The other windows are ancient, rebuilt. The trefoiled corbel table under the parapet is E. E. The parapet itself, with the spire, and its short flying buttresses, is Dec. of the middle of the 14th cent., but was entirely rebuilt in the 17th.

Entering the church, it will be seen that the piers on the S. side of the nave are E. E., part of the

original building. The two other ranges are Dec., as are the clere-story, the plain open roof, and the windows. The arch into the tower is fine E. E. There is a Dec. S. porch; and at the end of the S. aisle was an altar of the Virgin, this having served as the Lady Chapel before the construction of the eastern chapel, parallel with the chancel. The *windows* throughout the church are for the most part Dec. (curvilinear), and those of the chancel have ogee headings. The *font* at the end of the N. nave is E. E. The chancel retains its E. E. double piscina; and the jambs of the windows are also perhaps of this period. The Dec. arches on the N. side were, as has been said, cut through the E. E. wall, and the pier between them is a part of this wall, and retains its E. E. string. There is also a very beautiful Priests' door, of E. E. date. The church was made collegiate, or rather a college was attached to the church by Archbp. Chicheley in 1415, the year after that in which he became Archbishop of Canterbury. The fittings of the chancel, with the stalls and screen work, are of about 1450. The twenty stalls were for the members of the college (see *post*). On the subsellia is some good carving, including a head of the founder, and the arms of Canterbury impaled with Chicheley. The ancient altar steps and the original tiling (earlier than Chicheley's time) remain, and the arrangement of the tiles is worth attention. Under the easternmost arch dividing the chancel from the Lady Chapel, is an altar-tomb of great beauty, the sides of which have panels with the arms of England. The arch, which forms the canopy of the tomb, has been painted in compartments of red and green, and figures of butterflies and lions rampant appear on the mouldings. It has been suggested that this tomb was prepared for one of

the Earls of Lancaster, although not one of them was buried here. There is now on the high tomb the *brass* of Laurence de St. Maur, rector from 1289 to 1337, who wears the Eucharistic vestments. The brass did not at any time really belong to the tomb, and has probably been placed on it at a comparatively recent period. A small door E. of this tomb opens to a sacristy formed at the back of the altar of the Lady Chapel, an arrangement found also in the church of Rushden.

On the chancel floor is the *brass* of the parents of Archbp. Chicheley. It is a Latin cross, with emblems of the Evangelists, and the Saviour in Majesty in the centre. The inscription at the foot records "Thomas Chichele, who died, Feb. 25, 1400," and Agnes his wife. This interesting brass, which the Archbishop no doubt placed here, has not escaped defacement, and on the slab appears "R.S. 1773." There are *brasses* for Richard Wylleys, warden of the college; for a priest, 1498; and for William Thorpe, "marcer" (d. 1504), and his wife.

The *School House*, on the W. side of the churchyard, is a Perp. building of three bays, with very good windows, open battlements, and buttresses, carrying finials. Within, in the eastern part, is a stone pulpit. This school was founded by Archbp. Chicheley in 1422: likewise the *Bede-house* opposite,—which was designed for twelve men and one woman, all to be fifty years old when elected, and one to be governor with the title of Prior. It was for many years in ruins and roofless. The W. end of the Bede-house, with its fine window, and open bell-cot above, is good. At the E. end is the chapel, ascended by six steps from the hall.

The domestic buildings of Archbp. Chicheley's *College*, also founded in 1422, are in the main street, and have become very ruinous. They



were built round a quadrangle, of which the gateway remains, with three niches above it; some square-headed windows, and the arch of a larger window, blocked, under a gable. This has been called the window of a chapel—but without good reason. The whole seems domestic.

The market cross, with a well designed shaft, stands in the centre of the town.

The name of Chichele was to be found in the register of Higham until the middle of the 17th cent. Two brothers of the Archbp. became, one Lord Mayor of London, the other alderman and sheriff.

About 2½ m. E. is the small village of **Chelveston-cum-Caldecott**, on the borders of Hunts. The *Church* of St. John the Baptist has traces of Norm. work in the tower.

1½ m. S. of Higham is ★**Rushden** (Stat. on a branch line of the Midland Rly.), on the high road towards Bedford. The *Church*, dedicated to St. Mary, and formerly collegiate, has some striking peculiarities—the principal of which are the richly decorated strainer arch across the nave; the small flying buttresses at the porch; and the beautiful “Bochar” arch into the S. chancel aisle. The ground-plan is unusual—a short, broad nave, of three bays, and with broad aisles: a chancel and aisles of two bays, the walls ranging parallel with those of the nave; short, wide transepts, opening on either side from the easternmost bay of the nave; N. and S. porches in the westernmost bays; and a W. tower. The walls are throughout very early Dec. except those of the tower. This is late Dec. and at the time of its erection the nave and transept roofs were apparently lowered and a clerestory introduced. The nave pillars, strainer arch, and tower windows

are early Perp.—and about the beginning of 16th cent. the chancel piers and arches, the windows and battlements, were built and altered, and the existing roofs erected.

The tower is crowned by a very fine *spire*, more tapering and more graceful than that of Higham, and the angles are ornamented with pierced crockets. There are three ranges of Dec. lights, and, as at Higham, small flying buttresses connect the pinnacles of the tower. This latter has lofty buttresses, set on not quite close to the angle, and having on the top a grotesque head. The rich cornices and details of the belfry stage should be especially noticed—the windows here being Perp. insertions. The W. portal, trefoil-headed, is under a shallow porch as at Higham; and this is connected with the buttresses of the tower by small and peculiar flying buttresses. *Within*, the eye is at once caught by the unusual width and shallowness of the nave, and by the singular *strainer arch*. There is an arch of precisely the same character in Finedon church (Rte. 9), and in the same situation—parallel with the W. walls of the transepts, and rendered necessary by the thrust of the western transept arches. In both churches the arch is of early Perp. character, with somewhat varying details. They are, of course, insertions—of later date than the walls they support; and may be compared with the great buttressing arches in Wells Cathedral, and with others at Salisbury and Canterbury. The effect here is to convert what is really a defect into one of the richest ornaments of the church. The nave piers may be of the same date as this arch. The roof is good late Perp., with figures of angels at the corbels. The “*Bochar arch*” opens from the S. transept into the chancel aisle. It is Perp., springing from capitals containing heads; and on

the soffete is the legend "Yis arche made hue bochar and Julian hise wyf of whos sowlus God have merci upon.—Amen." (Qy., Hugh the *butcher*? nothing is known of him.) On either side of the arch, supporting its exterior square label, is a bracket with the figure of an angel holding a scroll, with inscriptions: "In God is all," and "A God help." A very beautiful parclose, of the same period, runs across the arch, and also encloses the adjoining transept. There is a screen of the same character across the chancel arch, and another under that N. In the *chancel*, the sedilia and piscina belong to the very early Dec. (almost E. E.) period. The E. window is rich late Perp., as are others in the church, although some of the Dec. lights remain. The east end of the N. chancel aisle is walled off, as at Higham, and served as a sacristy. There are some remains of old stained glass. The *font*, of very good character, is very early Dec. The pulpit is Perp. There is a square-headed fireplace at the W. end of the N. aisle. The church contains some monuments for the Perberton family,—one of whom, recording the virtues of his wife, adds—

"We had eight children to augment our joys,  
For her fower daughters, and for me fower boys;"

but none of these are of much interest. One William Maye, who died in 1631, left the interest of 100*l.* to the parish "so long as the world indures,"—having little provision of commissioners or school boards. He ordered also that a prayer which he caused to be written on one of the walls of the church, should be "for ever" kept in repair. It has been respected accordingly in the restoration of the church, which was completed in 1875. The Earls of Lancaster were for some time lords of Rushden; but there is no

evidence as to the builders of the church. Rushden has increased enormously during the past ten years. It is no longer a village but a large town full of shoe factories, and it is still increasing. This increase is one of the most striking features in the modern history of the county. *Rushden Hall* (Mrs. Sartoris) is a Jacobean house, with circular bay windows.

$3\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.E. of Rushden is **Newton Bromswold**, close to the Bedfordshire border. The small *Church* of St. Peter contains a fragment of old glass representing the head of an ecclesiastic.

The *Church* of St. Peter at **Irthlingborough** (locally called Artleboro), is 1 m. W. of the Stat. Its special feature is the semi-detached, square bell-tower, with the lofty octagon arising from it. Irthlingborough, in Domesday Book "Erdiburne," and "Erdiurne," is locally called "Hartlebury," the old *t* having been softened (in *Irthlingborough*) into *th*. In the village there stands the shaft of a cross, 13 ft. high, which, as Brydges says, "was used as a standard for the pole to measure out the parts or 'doles' in the meadows." This was before the enclosure of the parish. The manor was one of the earliest possessions of the Abbey of Peterborough, and so remained until the Dissolution. There were two churches here—probably connected with two distinct manors, but both belonging to Peterborough. *All Saints'* has entirely disappeared, and only part of the foundations can be traced, in an open field close to the village. *St. Peter's*, the existing church, was, like that of Higham, collegiate. The college was founded in 1376 by John Pyel, citizen and mercer of London, and in 1373, Lord Mayor. He bought the manor, held under



the Abbey, from Sir Simon de Drayton; but died before his college was completed, which was done by his widow, Joan, in 1388. The church owes its great interest to these benefactors. The building, as it existed before the collegiate foundation, was E. E. and Dec., and was not very important, though the portions which remain of these periods deserve attention. The ground-plan somewhat resembled that of Rushden. Pyel and his widow did something for the church, and fitted the chancel with stalls for the college; but their great works were the semi-detached campanile, the octagon which crowns it, and the domestic buildings of the college which adjoined it, but have disappeared. (It has been suggested that the massive tower is itself E. E., and that the windows in the belfry stage are insertions. This is at least doubtful, although there is, at Marston Morteyne in Bedfordshire, a great detached bell-tower, much resembling this, part of which is certainly E. E. (see *H. Bk. for Bedfordshire*). The arms of Pyel, a bend between two mullets pierced, appear on many parts of the tower. A late Dec. porch, with four doorways opening to the cardinal points, joins the W. end of the nave. The W. doorway leads into a building which joins the campanile, and is perplexing in its arrangement, although certainly connected with the collegiate buildings. The tower, into which it opens, is of four stages, very massive, having buttresses close to the angles. It was entirely taken down and rebuilt as before, all the old materials being used, and completed 1893. The belfry windows are double, with a statue under a trefoiled niche, between each light. The octagon which rises from the tower is in two stages, and, as has been truly said, is far more domestic or castellated in character than

ecclesiastical. It was divided within into three storeys, connected by staircases and passages in the thickness of the wall. The lower, and the uppermost chambers, had fireplaces. A square-headed and panelled window appears on the outside on all eight faces of this topmost chamber. Within, they are only partially open and become trefoiled lights with a deep splay. There is no doubt that these chambers were employed for the domestic purposes of the college, and the officers or others inhabiting them must have been well and airily lodged. Three subterranean chambers, traditionally called "Old Marlon's parlour," adjoin the tower, N. They are vaulted, and on one of the keystones are the arms of Pyel. The main buildings of the college were on the S. side of the church, and the fragment of a Dec. arch, at the S.W. angle of the S. aisle, must have been in some way connected with them.

Within the church (rest'd. 1881) remark a large blank arch at the end of the N. transept, of E. E. date. It was never open, as there is no sign of it on the exterior. There is a crypt or vault under the S. transept. In the S. choir aisle is the tomb, with effigies, of John Pyel and his wife, the founders of the college. Here also is a monument of black marble, of the 16th cent., with mural brasses, and a curious mixture of Renaissance in its details. It is unknown for whom it was erected. The mutilated figure of Elizabeth, or Ann, Dame Cheyne, and a small brass with inscription only, for Richard Fryseby, first dean of the college, who died in 1415, are also in the church. The college consisted of five or six canons, one of whom was dean, and four clerks.

Leaving the Higham Ferrers Stat., and proceeding by side of the river, which winds along on the left, the Rly. reaches at

19 m. Ringstead and Addington (Stat.). The *Church* of St. Mary (restd. 1863) at Ringstead has an E. E. tower and spire (remark the narrow lancet with sculptured head in the 2nd story of the tower). The nave is for the most part E. E.; the chancel late Dec. There is a N. aisle, which is continued nearly parallel with the chancel; and, as at Higham Ferrers and at Rushden, the easternmost portion of the chantry thus formed is separated by a solid wall, and serves as a sacristy or vestry, entered by a Dec. door on the N. side of the altar, which is a carved Jacobean table. A path from Ringstead to Raunds (see Rte. 10) is known as the "Friar's Path," and is perhaps a relic of the dependence of this church, with that of Denford, on the Abbey of Chester. Denford lies  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. N. The *Church* of Holy Trinity (restd. 1865) has an E. E. tower and spire. The rest of the church is very early Dec., with some Perp. insertions. The most noticeable feature is the stone sedilia—four on the N. side of the chancel, and three on the S.—separated by clustered shafts which carry trefoiled arches. The Vicarage is united with that of Ringstead; and the numerous sedilia may possibly be connected with the appropriation by Chester.

Great Addington is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.W. of the Stat. (The road is liable to floods.) The tower (without a spire) of the *Church* of All Saints is Dec., and very beautiful in all its details—windows (two of which are ozenge-shaped), panelled band below the battlements, and niche above the W. door. It contains a ring of six bells. The rest of the church is for the most part Dec. The E. E. font, and a pillared piscina, deserve attention. The latter is in a chantry at the E. end of the N. aisle; founded by Henry Vere early in the 16th

cent. His monument, with effigy, wearing a collar of SS, remains in the aisle; and an inscription records that he left three daughters, of whom the eldest was married "to John Lord Mordaunt, first Barr. of this kingdom." On a raised slab of black marble is the *brass* of John Bloxain, 1st Chaplain of this chantry (d. 1519). He holds in his hands the chalice, containing a wafer with the sacred monogram. At the corners of the slab are the emblems of the four Evangelists. The stained glass in the E. window was presented by the Dowager Viscountess Downe in 1898.

The register of Great Addington contains some curious entries by Thomas Cox, rector, who died in 1640. One of these relates to a popular rising which took place in some part of Northamptonshire, in 1607, to destroy "the hedges and other mounds of the enclosed fields." There were disturbances at Rushden and Pytchley; and again at Newton near Geddington, where there was a fight between the people and the "justices and gentlemen." Some were killed and wounded, and many taken prisoners. These, on conviction, were hanged and quartered, and their quarters set up at Northampton, Oundle, Thrapston, and other places.

The *Hall* is a good example of a simple Jacobean manor-house.

A field called Shooter's Hill, in this parish, marks the site of a large burial-place, perhaps Brito-Roman. Many skeletons have been found.

Little Addington, 1 m. S. The *Church* of St. Mary is almost entirely Dec., with very pure and beautiful tower arch, and main arcade.

Beyond Ringstead and near to Thrapston Stat. the Rly. passes underneath the Midland line from Kettering to Huntingdon (see Rte. 10), and reaches at



22 m. ★ Thrapston (Stat. There is another Stat. on the Midland Rly. about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the town).

Thrapston is a small market town, and the most important in this part of the county. It is the great grain-market for much of Huntingdonshire and Northamptonshire; and the two lines of Rly. render it easy of access from all parts. There is nothing in Thrapston, however (it is Trapestone in Domesday Book), to attract the tourist. The *Church* of St. James has a late Dec. tower with spire, and chancel. The nave is modern. There is an indifferent E. window of stained glass by *Willes*; and a better on the S. side of the chancel. A ring of eight bells, by *Taylor*, of Loughborough, was added in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of H.M. the Queen.

At W. end of church will be found the coat-of-arms of Sir John Washington; some members of that family being interred in the churchyard. Two low mounds, N.W. of the church, are supposed to mark the site of a castle, of which there is no record.

Uninteresting as the town is in itself, it is the best station from which to visit the churches of Islip and Lowick—(the latter full of fine monuments and ancient stained glass)—and the grand old mansion of Drayton. These places lie across the Nene, l. To the rt. is the *Church* of Tichmarsh, worth a visit.

There is a very pretty view from the bridge which crosses the Nene between Thrapston and Islip. The river sweeps round between green meadows, overhung in the foreground by masses of fine trees. Loose-strife, arrow-head, the flowering rush, and many of the rarer water-plants abound; and the tall rushes which border the stream are used here for plaiting the outer portion of horse-collars and mats, and for the seats of chairs.

Islip is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the Stat. The *Church* of St. Nicholas stands on the high ground; and its tall, Perp. spire is a good landmark. It was originally Dec., and the lower part of the tower may be of this period. This first building was replaced by a Perp. nave, aisles, and chancel. Perp. buttresses and an upper story were added to the tower, which was then crowned by its graceful spire. The proportions of the church (which has been carefully restored) are unusually perfect; the chancel is large; fine and lofty arches open into chancel and tower, and the main arcade has very peculiar piers, each of which is a long, narrow strip of masonry set N. and S., with attached shafts, E. and W. The shafts have high bases. The reredos is modern. In the tower an interesting mural tablet records the death, in January, 1624–5, of Dame Mary Washington, daughter of Philip Curtis, of Islip. Her husband, Sir John Washington, knight, of Thrapston, was a son of Laurence Washington, of Brington (see Rte. 5), and a great-grandson of Laurence Washington, of Sulgrave (see Rte. 8). His nephew and namesake, John (son of his younger brother, the Rev. Lawrence Washington, Rector of Purleigh, who died in or before 1654), emigrated to America in 1657, and was the great-grandfather of President Washington. Sir John himself died, and was buried, at Thrapston in 1668.

There are some good old houses in the village of Islip, and the chimney, so characteristic of Northamptonshire building, is here well seen. They are in pairs, with what is called a "wind-break" or hollow between them. The cottages are for the most part built of stone, oolite, or ironstone; and it may be remarked that throughout the county isolated farm-houses are rare. This has resulted from the comparatively late

period (in many parishes, the end of the last cent., or the beginning of the present) at which the whole country was enclosed. Each parish had its open "field," meadow and arable, in which the householders had their "doles" or shares. The "town," the place of the original settlement, thus retained its importance, and the houses of the principal farmers were gathered there, and not dispersed through the parish. The old forest character of the county may have helped to preserve these primitive features. Such solitary farm-houses as do exist are generally called "lodges," and seem to have been at first houses for verderers or keepers in the open spaces of the woods. Towards Woodford there are some Roman remains.

From Islip a good road leads to **Lowick** (2 m.), and there is a striking view over the country to the N.E., from the hill above Harper's Brook, as the streamlet is called which winds onward to the Nene. The lantern of Lowick church (which must on no account be neglected by the antiquary) is seen rising among wood in front. The manor (Luhwic in Domesday Book, afterwards Lofwic and Luffwick), and its members, were held by various possessors, Nowers, De Veres, and Greenes, until, coming into the hands of this last family, it continued as a member of Drayton Manor, with the possessors of that house. The *Church* of St. Peter (restd. 1869) is Perp., with a W. tower of very perfect design, carrying within a parapet, an octagon lantern supported by flying buttresses from the corner pinnacles, which are so high as to form with those on the lantern a crown or group of twelve points. Probably the work of the same architect and builder is to be seen at Islip, Tichmarsh, and Elton, all being of the date when Edw. IV. had his Court at Fotheringhay.

The lanterns, there and at Boston, having a whole stage clear of the tower pinnacles, produce a quite different effect. In the church, remark the sedilia in the chancel, and in the chapel at the end of the north choir aisle. The *monuments* and the *glass*, however, are the chief points of interest here. The brief history of the successive lords of Drayton (with which Lowick went), given *post*, will explain most of these *monuments*. There is, between the chancel and the N. choir aisle, the very fine alabaster tomb, with effigies of Ralph Greene, Esquire, and Katherine (Mallory) his wife—the second lord of Drayton and Lowick of that name—who died circ. 1415. He is in armour; and on the front of his basinet are the letters IHS. NAZE. (Jesus of Nazareth). She has a rich headdress. The knight holds her hand, an unusual arrangement. The altar-tomb has angels bearing shields. The treatment of the angels' wing is noticeable. (The indenture for the making of this monument between Katherine, widow of Ralph Greene, and Thos. Prenstys and Robert Sutton, "Kervers," exists, and is printed in Sir R. C. Hoare's 'Warminster,' p. 9. The "Kervers" were of Chelaston in Derby, and were bound to make the tomb "bien honestement et profitablement" of alabaster, with effigies. It was to cost "quarant livres d'esterling," 40l. sterling, and to be finished before "Pasques," 1420.) There are also, in the N. chapel, monuments for Lady Mary Mordaunt, Duchess of Norfolk by her first marriage, and afterwards wife of Sir John Germain (d. 1705), and for Sir John Germain himself (d. 1718). His second wife was the Lady Betty Germain of whom we read in Walpole. She was the daughter of Charles, Earl of Berkeley, and is recorded here by a small brass plate. In another chapel, formerly the chapel of Our



Lady, or Lady Aisle, is the tomb with effigy, of Edward Stafford, Earl of Wiltshire (d. 1499). The long hair is flung back curiously. The letters of the inscription round the verge of the tomb, and the leaf ornament dividing the words, should be noticed for their great beauty. The whole is a model. The altar-tomb with *brasses* is that of Henry Greene (d. 1467), and his wife Margaret. He is in a tabard. The *brass* is sprinkled with scrolls, inscribed "Da gl'iam Deo." A monument by Westmacott for Charles Sackville, 5th and last Duke of Dorset (d. 1843), should also be noticed.

In front of the altar step is a large grey slab covering the grave of John Heton, who was Rector of Benefield, 1373, and of Lowick, 1406, dying 1415 (see Bridges, ii. 247). The inscription having been rubbed down was deepened by an incompetent workman (who has changed heton into beton). The inscription is worth preserving.

+ Hic iacet Dñs Johēs(†) de heton  
Quondā Rector Eccle de Benysfeld  
et nup de Lufwyck cuius aie propi-  
ci(†)etur Deus Amen Credo quod  
Redemptor(†) meus vivit et i(n)  
nobissi(m)o die deterra surrecturus  
su(m) et i(n) carne mea videbo deu(m)  
salvatore(m).

("De terra surrecturus sum" is the vulgate text in Job.)

The *stained glass* fills the upper half of the Perp. windows in the N. aisle of the nave. Portions of it are the remains of one or perhaps of two "Jesse" windows, and the whole is of the Dec. period. It belonged, therefore, to some window or windows now destroyed, and it is probable that part at least came from a Dec. E. window which the present Perp. one has replaced. The figures are those of kings and

† Here is a corner.

prophets, such as usually appear in a tree of Jesse, all surrounded by branches of a vine with leaves and fruit. There are no canopies. In the heads of the windows are smaller figures; among which St. John the Baptist, St. Andrew, and St. Michael are conspicuous. The tone, texture, and colouring of the glass are all of Dec. character. The last figure, at the E. end, belonged no doubt to a different window. It is that of a knight completely armed in chain-mail, kneeling, and offering the model of a church. On the hilt of the sword are the letters I. H. S. The shield bears arg. a cross engrailed, gules, the arms of Drayton, but assumed afterwards by De Veres and Greenes. There has been some question as to the date of this figure, since, while the armour might belong to the time of Henry III., the church in the hand seems to be late Dec. It is tolerably certain, therefore, that the glass is of that period, and the figure may have been imitated from some earlier design. An old tradition (there is no other evidence) asserts that it represents Sir Walter de Vere, who took the cross under Rich. I., and assumed the arms of Drayton. He is said to have founded or largely restored the church. On the other hand, the late Mr. Poole suggested that it may represent the 2nd Sir Henry Greene, circ. 1390, who was certainly the restorer or rebuilder of the church. In the lower part of the windows runs a broken inscription, not fully intelligible, but containing a bidding prayer for some Drayton. In the N. chantry are some shields of arms, chiefly those of Greenes with their alliances, and in the S. windows of the chancel a remarkable and complete series. Everywhere should be noted the recurrence of the shield <sup>AR</sup><sub>GU</sub> (a cross engrailed), borne by the Draytons and Greenes of Drayton.

At the eastern entrance of the village is a barn of the 14th cent., belonging to what was once an important grange. Jones of Nayland, the well-known "divine," was born here; and there is an inscription in the churchyard composed by him. In a field S. of the village is the *Lowick oak*—one of the largest oaks in this country. The vast size of the tree is not evident until one is close under it. Then it is seen that the first limbs are of huge girth, and that the main bole above them is still enormous. The bark is ribbed and furrowed, and the great root crowns grandly folded and contorted. It is *Q. sessiliflora*, and a chief relic of the forest that once covered all this country.

**Drayton** (Mrs. Stopford Sackville), one of the most interesting places in Northamptonshire, lies about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.W. of Lowick. The house is approached through a park rich in stately avenues of wych-elms and lime-trees; and, with the surrounding grounds and gardens, affords such a picture of antiquity as will not easily be matched. The manor of Drayton in the reign of Henry II. was in the hands of Aubrey de Vere, the first Earl of Oxford of that great house. It descended to his second son, Robert de Vere, and continued in that family until late in the reign of Edw. III. Sir Walter de Vere, temp. Rich. I., took the name of Drayton, and assumed the arms afterwards borne by all his representatives. (See *Lowick Church*.) About the 35th year of Edw. III. his descendant, Sir John of Drayton, conveyed the lordship to Sir Henry Greene, then Chief Justice of England. His son was Sir Henry Greene, who was one of the principal followers of Richard II., and who, together with the Earl of Wiltshire and Sir John Bushey, was beheaded by the Duke of Lancaster after the taking of Bristol

Castle. His son Ralph recovered Drayton, and the Greenes held it until it passed by marriage with its heiress, Constance Greene, to Lord John Stafford, second son of the Duke of Buckingham, created Earl of Wiltshire in the 9th year of Edw. IV. Thence Drayton passed, again by marriage, to John, Lord Mordaunt, temp. Henry VII.; and the Mordaunts (who also resided at Turvey in Bedfordshire—see *H.Bk. for Bedfordshire*, and became Earls of Peterborough temp. Charles I.) retained it until the death of the 2nd Earl, whose daughter Mary married first the Duke of Norfolk, and secondly Sir John Germain—carrying Drayton to each husband. She left it at her death to Sir John, whose second wife was Lady Elizabeth, daughter of Charles, Earl of Berkeley. Sir John Germain was a soldier of fortune, and is said by some to have been a natural son of William II., Prince of Orange. He certainly was "taken up" by King William III. According to Walpole he was so ignorant that he placed the pillars of his new colonnade "with the capitals downward, supposing them pedestals"—and turned the fish-ponds into a hop-garden. He left Drayton to Lady Betty, who bequeathed it in turn to Lord George Sackville, who is represented by the present owner.

The first Earl of Peterborough, who died in 1642, is said to have been converted from Romanism through a discussion held at Drayton between Archbp. Usher and Rokewood, a Jesuit. His widow lived in a private house at Lowick, and maintained Archbp. Usher for some time after his compelled absence from Ireland. His famous 'Conferences with a Jesuit' (Rokewood and Beaumont are both named) were held here. When the Countess of Peterborough visited King Charles at Holdenby, and told him that she maintained the Archbp., the King



replied that, "charity covered a multitude of faults." Her Puritan views were not in favour at court.

(The history of Drayton is told in a very rare volume (only eighteen copies are known to exist) entitled 'Succinct Genealogies of certain noble and ancient families, by Robert Halstead, London, 1685.' There is a copy in the Brit. Mus., and one is retained at Drayton, where the book was compiled by the 2nd Earl of Peterborough, with the help of his chaplain Mr. Rans. The name of Halstead is fictitious.)

Sir Simon de Drayton (of the House of De Vere) had licence in the fifth year of Edw. III. to crenellate his mansion house here, and to impark 30 acres round it. Henry, the last of the Greenes, whose daughter Constance married Lord John Stafford, afterwards Earl of Wiltshire, rebuilt great part of the house, which was again added to by the Mordaunts in the reign of Elizabeth, and underwent a considerable remodelling under William III.—at the hands of Mary, the Mordaunt heiress and Sir John Germain her Dutch husband. All this variety gives a somewhat unusual character to the house. Tudor towers are crowned by Renaissance cupolas. The vast hall retains its Gothic roof, now hidden by the plaster ceiling of the time of William III., and its thick walls, with their sash windows, not improbably encase the original Gothic buttresses. The approach through the dead wall of the mediæval screen gives the place "a very foreign air." Here, however, is Horace Walpole's description, written to Montague, July 23, 1763, but still appropriate:—

"Well! we hurried away and got to Drayton an hour before dinner. Oh! the dear old place! You would be transported with it. In the first place it stands in as ugly a hole as Boughton; well, that is not

its beauty. The front is a brave, strong castle wall, embattled, and loopholed for defence. Passing the great gate you come to a sumptuous, but narrow modern court, behind which rises the old mansion, all towers and turrets. The house is excellent; has a vast hall, ditto dining-room, king's chamber, trunk gallery at the top of the house, handsome chapel, and seven or eight distinct apartments, besides closets and conveniences without end. Then it is covered with portraits, crammed with old china, furnished richly, and not a rag in it under forty, fifty, or a thousand years old, and not a bed or a chair that has lost a tooth, or got a grey hair, so well are they preserved. I rummaged it from head to foot, examined every spangled bed, and enamelled pair of bellows, for such there are; in short I do not believe the old mansion was ever better pleased with an inhabitant since the days of Walter de Drayton, except when it has received its divine old mistress. If one could honour her more than one did before, it would be to see with what religion she keeps up the old dwelling and customs, as well as old servants, who you may imagine do not love her less than other people do. The garden is just as Sir John Germain brought it from Holland; pyramidal yews, treillages, and square cradle walks, with windows clipped in them." The "divine old mistress" was of course Lady Betty, whose receipts for apricot jam are still famous at Drayton.

The screen through which the court is entered is Edwardian, and no doubt part of Simon de Drayton's work. The fine vaulted crypt also belongs to this period; but the vaulted cellars, apparently built in imitation, are co-eval with the Elizabethan wing above them (1584). Vaulting was but sparingly employed in Elizabeth's time, and

these ribs with bosses ornamented with shields, bearing crests of some of the families of the time, are of considerable interest. The very rich iron work of the entrance gates, and the Venetian knockers on the great doors, deserve notice. The iron work (of which there is much in the neighbourhood of the house) bears the cypher of Mary Mordaunt, Duchess of Norfolk—and its date is thus clearly marked. The fine colour of the stone, as the court is entered, receives additional value from the creepers trained against part of the walls. Within, the house retains its spangled beds, its wealth of old china, including various monsters patronised by Lady Betty, and a great number of portraits, some few of which are of interest. The long gallery at the top of the house is now used as a library, and is approached by a remarkable geometrical staircase of oak. Half-way down the gallery is a little cabinet fitted up for the same Duchess of Norfolk. Its prettily inlaid floor displays her cypher, and its mirrored ceiling and quaintly decorated walls are interesting examples of the manner in which these *boudoirs* of fine ladies were adorned. The dining-room has a good ceiling of the Adams type. King James I. and his Queen spent three days at Drayton in 1608 (see Nicholl's 'Progresses'), and in return for the hospitality then received the then owner, the 4th Lord Mordaunt, being shortly afterwards accused of complicity in the Gunpowder Plot, was committed to the Tower, where he died, leaving behind him in his will affecting protestations of his innocence. William III. is said to have once visited Drayton, and in anticipation of his arrival the hall received the Italianised decorations which it still retains. The following are the most important *pictures*. In the *Hall*: Henry Duke of Norfolk, on a

grey horse; figure by *Lely*. William III. on a grey barb; *Kneller*. James Earl of Berkeley; *Kneller*. *King's Dining Room*: Elizabeth, wife of John Mordaunt, 1st Earl of Peterborough; *Van Dyck*. Henry, 2nd Earl of Peterborough, full-length in armour; *Dobson*. *Drawing Room*: Lord George Germain; *Romney*. (This was Lady Betty's heir, Lord G. Sackville, who took the name of Germain.) Joseph Damer, 1st Baron Milton, afterwards Earl of Dorchester, and his wife, both by *Battoni*. A portrait ascribed to *Holbein*. Philip le Bel, father of Charles V. Anne, Countess of Warwick, wife of Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick; *Sir A. More*. Charles, Earl of Peterborough and Monmouth. In this room is a singular clock, perhaps French, the hours marked on a globe at the top, the works within an open enrichment of gold, the whole jewelled. There is also a collection of miniatures by Cosway and others. In other parts of the house are Lord George Sackville (Germain); *Sir J. Reynolds*. George Damer, 2nd Earl of Dorchester; *Reynolds*. Lord and Lady Hunsdon, both by *Zuccherò*. Two views of Venice; *Canaletto*. Henry Rich, Earl of Holland; *Mytens*. Father Huddleston, confessor to Charles II. Frances, Duchess of Richmond and Lennox, daughter of Thomas Lord Howard of Bindon, assigned to *Van Dyck*. A very curious picture representing a "play of canes," "Giuocco de Cainnas," before the Emperor Charles V. It is signed "Johannes Maius," and is by *Vermeyen*, domestic painter to the Emperor. The inscription underneath runs, "Carol. V. Imp. Hisp. Rex Chariss, conjugii Isabellæ Auguste gravide in agri Toletani planitie jaculationem canarum ludum fecit, 1539, mense Mart. Ut præsens viderat Johannes Maius pictor effinxit." The "play of canes" is the "djerreed" play of



the East, and was common among the Spanish Moors. It is played on horseback, the reeds being aimed at the back of the galloping rider.

The gardens, which had undergone some change since Walpole visited them, were restored to their ancient formality by the late predecessor, Mr. Stopford Sackville. There are large pieces of still water, in which the house is reflected, with lime-trees of great size sweeping the banks, and walks of bright green turf between them. Old hedges of hornbeam and beech, berceaux and cabinets de verdure, might be the very same "brought from Holland" by Sir John Germain. There is a banqueting house; and the south front of the mansion, with its Elizabethan towers and later cupolas, rises above formal beds and alleys set thick with old-fashioned flowers. In the gardens there is a series of fine lead vases adorned with beautifully modelled figures in low relief.

Slipton is a small village on the W. side of Drayton Park. From Lowick the tourist may proceed to **Sudborough**, about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m. N.W. The *Church* of All Saints (restored) is chiefly Dec., with a fine piscina and single sedile on the S. side of the chancel. Here is the good effigy of Sir Robert de Vere, standard bearer to William Longespée, Earl of Salisbury, and killed with him in Palestine. Under a window at the E. end of the N. nave aisle are two small *brasses* with figures of William West (d. 1390), and Joanna his wife, and of Wm. West, "Marblerus," worker of marble(?), and others. Sudborough belonged for some time to the De Veres, and afterwards went nearly in the same line with Drayton. There are large earthworks and ponds at a place called "Money-holes," said to be the site of a monastery, of which nothing what-

ever is known. The country here is not greatly broken, but is pleasant; and large woods stretch away northward, through which the pedestrian may find his way (though this will not be easy for a stranger) to *Lyveden New and Old buildings*, distant about 4 m. They are more easily reached, however, from Oundle (see *post*). These woods are divided and cut through by broad green tracks called "ridings" (*hriding* A.-S. = a clearing), and narrower paths called "tracks." There is a track known as "King Stephen's riding," near Brigstock, and many of them are no doubt of great antiquity—hunters' passes through the forest. The long green alley, with fine oak rising among the thick wood at the sides, is often very impressive, and in the primrose season beautiful. "Twayblade" and "Herb Paris" are frequent in these woods, which in the spring are blue with the wild hyacinth (*Scilla nutans*). One of the woods toward Lyveden is known as *Lady Wood*, and is connected with the remarkable attempt of the "Black Watch"—the 42nd regiment—to return to the Highlands after their march to England in 1743. The independent companies of the Black Watch, formed in the Highlands after the rising of 1715, were, in 1740, embodied into a regiment, apparently with the understanding that they should not be moved from their own country. Notwithstanding this, and against the strong remonstrances of President Forbes of Culloden, they were marched to London in 1743, and it was believed that they were destined for foreign service. They were reviewed on Finchley Common by Marshal Wade, but there was great discontent and uneasiness among them, increased by persons who were anxious to excite a spirit of disaffection to the government, and who made the Highlanders believe that they were to be transported to the

American plantations for life. The greater part of the regiment accordingly resolved to return to Scotland, and began their march northward on the night of the 14th of May. It is remarkable that, in spite of orders issued to the sheriffs and officers of the counties through which their route lay, nothing was heard of them for five days. They kept between the two great northern roads (setting out from Highgate) and passed from wood to wood, until they were at last discovered in Lady Wood, about 5 m. from Oundle. General Blakeney, then stationed at Northampton, marched with a body of troops towards the wood where the Highlanders lay, and drew up close outside it. Some conferences took place, and the men long declared that they would not submit without promise of a free pardon. The general declared that unless they surrendered, they should be cut to pieces; and they began after some hours to come over to him in bodies of ten and fifteen. All at length surrendered. They were taken back to London, tried by court-martial, and condemned to be shot, a sentence which was only carried out on three of them. At least one of the Highlanders died during their sojourn in Lady Wood, and a corner of land near it was until lately known as the "soldier's grave." The site is still remembered, but the ground has long been under the plough.

Proceeding by rail from Thrapston, at

24 $\frac{3}{4}$  m. Thorpe (Stat.). The remains of the castle of Thorpe Waterville are close at hand, i.; and from this Stat. the churches of Aldwinckle All Saints, St. Peter's, Wadenhoe, Achurch, and Tichmarsh may be visited.

All that remains of the *Castle*, besides the moats and foundations, is what may have been a guest-

chamber, now converted into a barn; close by is a large house built of the stone and timber taken from the ruins. The family of Waterville held land here from the time of the Domesday survey to the reign of Edw. I., and the place thus received its distinctive name. They built a castle here which, in 1297, passed into the hands of Walter Langton, Bp. of Lichfield — who "erected a large mansion house at Thorpe, procuring for that purpose, without leave of the monks, and to their detriment, a vast quantity of timber from the woods belonging to Pipwell Abbey." From the bishop the place passed through various hands, until it came to the Lovells. It remained a strongly fortified place, since in 1461 William Paston, after telling of the battle of Towton, writes, "Item, Thorpe Waterfield is yielded, as Spordans can tell you." The lands were at last granted by Edw. VI. in 1552 to Sir Wm. Cecil, afterwards Lord Burghley, — and passed by exchange to the Powys family, now represented by Lord Lilford. Leland says that he saw "the ruins of the utter wall" of the castle — by that time fallen into decay. What remains is probably part of Bp. Langton's work. There seem to have been two stories; and there was a porch (now removed) on the E. side. A chimney, corbelled off about 7 ft. above ground, projects as a narrow strip of masonry from the face of a gable wall. In the wall are two circular openings, one on each side of the chimney. A skew-bridge with a ribbed soffite, also of the 14th cent., spans a brook near the Rly. Stat., which flows into the Nene. This bridge has been widened, but retains its ancient portions.

The Nene is here divided into two channels; both of which are crossed before reaching (1 $\frac{1}{2}$  m.) Aldwinckle All Saints, the first of



two parishes (the 2nd is Aldwinckle St. Peter) which have in fact but one village. Each has its "illustration." In the rectory of Aldwinckle All Saints John Dryden was born Aug. 9, 1631. In the old rectory of St. Peter's, Thomas Fuller, the church historian, was born in 1608. "God in his providence," he writes, in his 'Mist Contemplations,' "fixed my nativity in a remarkable place. I was born at Aldwinckle, in Northamptonshire, where my father was the painful preacher of St. Peter's. This village was distanced one good mile W. from Achurch, where Mr. Brown, founder of the Brownists, did dwell, whom, out of curiosity, when a youth, I often visited. It was likewise a mile and a half distant east from Levenden" (Lyveden) "where Francis Tresham, Esq., so active in the Gunpowder Treason, had a large demesne and ancient habitation. My nativity may mind me of moderation, whose cradle was rocked betwixt two rocks. Now seeing I was never such a churl as to desire to eat my morsel alone, let such who like my prayer join with me therein:—God grant we may hit the golden mean, and endeavour to avoid all extremes—the fanatic Anabaptist on the one side, and the fiery zeal of the Jesuit on the other." "Aldwinckle" is the "old corner" (*wincel*, A.-S.); and the name is thoroughly appropriate to the tongue of land here formed by a deep bend of the Nene. The two churches are due to the existence of two great properties, one belonging to the Abbey of Peterborough, the other to a succession of lay lords, who held under the barony of Warden, and who, until the reign of Edw. II., were named from the place De Aldwinckle.

The *Church* of All Saints (rest'd. 1843) is E. E. (main arcade S. side, chancel arch, and E. window, with plate tracery) and early Dec.

(N. side of main arcade and clerestory). Perp. windows have been inserted in the aisles. The W. tower is Perp. and has unusually large louvre lights in the upper stage. On the S. side of the chancel is a Perp. chantry—erected in 1489 by "Wm. Chambre and Eliz. his wife—formerly wife of Wm. Aldwinckle." It was dissolved within 60 years of its foundation. On the N. side is a Dec. vestry—a very picturesque addition. The *brass* of "Wm. Aldewynckle" (d. 1463) is in the chancel; and on the wall of the N. aisle is a *brass* for "John Pykering, physitian" (d. 1659). He was great uncle to Dryden, and brother to the poet's grandfather, Henry Pickering, rector of the church—who is buried in the churchyard under an altar-tomb. There is another such tomb for Lucy Pickering, his daughter—aunt of the poet.

The *rectory* is on the N. side of the church. It is a long low-thatched house, rather picturesque, and having portions which are certainly older than Dryden's time. A window over the door is said to have lighted the room in which John Dryden was born; but the room itself has been lessened and altered. The poet was born here in 1631—his grandfather having been rector 40 years, when he died in 1637. The date on his tomb has been misread by Bridges and others, whose error gave some difficulty to Sir Walter Scott. (Bridges makes Henry Pickering rector for only ten years, and die in 1657. The difficulty was therefore to understand how Dryden came to be born here sixteen years before his grandfather's appointment. The true reading was cleared by the Rev. H. Ward, a rector of St. Peter's—and is "forty" instead of ten, and 1637 (the year of death) instead of 1657. There is no register here older than 1650. Hence the direct

proof of Dryden's birth at the rectory is not forthcoming.)

The *Church of Aldwincle St. Peter* has one of the most graceful towers with a broach spire to be found in the county. It is late Dec. (circ. 1373) of the same date as the chancel, which has flamboyant windows. An exterior string-course has grotesque heads—besides birds—and small animals clinging feet upwards to it. The nave is E. E.—the sculpture of each capital being different. In the E. window are remains of very good stained glass, including portraits of two rectors—one of whom, William de Luffwick (for whose "life" the inscription desires prayer), probably assisted in rebuilding the chancel. In one of the S. windows are figures of St. George and St. Christopher, with a bordure showing a white dog and a hare alternately. The white dog probably refers to the Lovels ("Lovel the dog"), who at one time were connected with the manor. There is a very beautiful coped tomb, without inscription, in the angle formed by the N. aisle and the tower. It is of late Dec. character. On the S. wall of the chancel is the monument of Margaret Davenant, grandmother of Thomas Fuller. The baptism of Fuller is entered in the register in his father's writing, June 19, 1608. Of the old rectory in which he was born, nothing remains but the well. The house, which is described as having been a very curious one, was pulled down late in the 18th cent.

The village of the Aldwincles, with fine trees scattered among the grey stone houses, is full of picturesque "bits"; and the whole of this country is not unattractive.

1½ m. N. is **Wadenhoe** on high ground, as the name indicates. The "Castle Close" near the church shows remains of foundations, and a mound which may be

that of an English "strength" before the Conquest. The manor was long held by the Le Stranges. The greater part of the *Church of St. Michael* has been rebuilt. It has a saddle-back tower. Adjoining is *Wadenhoe House*, with some good trees about it.

1½ m. farther is **Pilton**. The road commands a really fine view across the river, which is here bordered on the rt. bank by deep woods called the "Lynches," belonging to Lord Lilford. At the entrance of Pilton is an enormous walnut-tree; and in the village a remarkable cottage, built with (apparently) E. E. fragments, said to have been brought from the chapel of Thorpe Waterville. The *Church of All Saints* is E. E., with a low broach spire. In this church were married, Oct. 21, 1630, Erasmus Dryden and Mary Pickering, parents of the poet. (The name is spelt Dreydon in the register which records this marriage.) The rectory (once the manor-house) is a most picturesque Elizabethan house with oak staircase and panelled drawing-room. Near it is another very large walnut-tree.

A bridge crosses the river below Pilton; and the views in either direction, with woods, rich meadows, and deep beds of waterflags along the stream, are very beautiful. On the rt. bank, above the bridge, is *Lilford* (Lord Lilford)—see *post*; and pleasant, tree-bordered roads lead back to Achurch, nearly opposite Wadenhoe. The trees, mostly elms, form avenues along the roads, and were planted, inside the hedges, when the country here was enclosed, about 1773.

**Achurch** (Asechirce in Domesday, and often called Thorpe Achurch) has a good *Church*, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, with an E. E. tower and spire, and a Dec. (geo-



metrical) chancel. There is a monument (removed from the old church of Lilford) in memory of Sir Thomas Powys, who was knighted by James II. in 1688, and in 1714 appointed one of the Judges of the Queen's Bench (d. 1719), it is a reclining figure, with Religion and Eloquence on either side. This was the first Powys owner of Lilford. The long inscription was composed by Matthew Prior. There is also an early 13th-cent. tomb of Asceline de Waterville, a Crusader, on the S. side of the chancel. A very large and fine ash-tree grows on the N. side of the church. (Northamptonshire ash timber is famous, and still commands large prices. At the beginning of the 18th cent. 100 ash-trees sold for 1500*l.*) The rectory dates from 1633. Robert Brown, rector here through the early part of the 17th cent., was the founder of the Brownists, and "used to say" that there was "no church in England but his, and that was *a-church*." Brown was related to the Lord Treasurer Burghley, who gave him this living; but, violent enthusiast as he was, his position here did not prevent him from constantly opposing the law, and he boasted that he had been committed to 32 prisons, in some of which he "could not see his hand at noonday." He died when upwards of 80, in 1630, on his way to Northampton gaol, to which he had been committed for an assault on a constable.

About 1 m. S. of Thorpe Stat., on high ground, is **Tichmarsh** (*Tyccen*, A.-S. = *goat's marsh*?), where the church is interesting, and has some memorials of the poet Dryden. Early in the reign of Edw. VI. Gilbert Pickering bought a manor in Tichmarsh with the advowsons of Tichmarsh and Aldwincle All Saints, from Wm. Earl of Worcester. Henry Pickering,

a younger son of Sir Gilbert Pickering of Tichmarsh, was rector of Aldwincle All Saints, and his daughter, Mary, married, Oct. 21, 1630, Erasmus Dryden, 3rd son of Sir E. Dryden, Bart., of Canons Ashby. The poet (born at Aldwincle—see *ante*) was their eldest son. His father, after his marriage, lived much at Tichmarsh, and is described as "of Tichmarsh" in the letters patent of 1670, making John Dryden poet laureate. Under his father's will the poet acquired some small property in the parish; and he sometimes visited his cousin, Mrs. Creed, here and at Cotterstock (see *post*). Mrs. Creed, the only daughter of Sir Gilbert Pickering, whose husband died in 1701, was something of an artist, and in her old age painted sundry decorations for this church (and many others in the neighbourhood), including an elaborate memorial for that "pious Christian," Mrs. Jane Pickering, which still remains here. The inscriptions for that family, which exist in the N. aisle of the chancel, were nearly all composed by her, including one for Dryden's father and mother, who were buried here. He receives himself a long commemoration on this tablet: "We boast," it runs in part, "that he was bred and had his first learning here, where he has often made us happie by his kind visits and most delightful conversation." Above this tablet is a wooden (in every sense) bust of "glorious John," with the words, "The Poet." Mrs. Creed's own monument, with a large, plain marble urn and two "sauce bolts," is at the end of the S. aisle.

The Church of St. Mary (restored) has early Dec. nave and chancel, with Perp. windows inserted, and a superb W. tower, in four stages, with bands of quatrefoiled ornament, niches, pinnacles, and a battlement rising in steps between them. It is of finely coloured Weldon stone,

full of shells, and for the most part very perfect. The capitals of the main arcade, and the ornaments at the terminations of the hood mouldings should be noticed. On the eastward side of the chancel arch is a king's head—perhaps that of Edw. I.—with long moustache and small coronet. There is some Norm. work on the interior of the doorway S. of the chancel—and the chancel walls seem to have been much altered—probably when the Perp. E. window was inserted. This is filled with modern stained glass, representing St. John taking home the Virgin—the figures from Delacroix's picture. The low modern reredos has well sculptured symbolical subjects—Abraham and Melchizedec, and Abraham offering Isaac.

The Pickering Manor-house (quite gone) stood on the S. side of the church, near a very fine elm-tree seen from the churchyard. The clock worked into the side of the tower was erected by that family, and was visible from the house. There was a curious structure (long removed) leading from the entrance of the churchyard to the parvise over the S. porch, which served as the Pickering pew. In it Dryden may often have sat. The ditches and mounds of a castle of the Lovels still exist about  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. S.E. of the church. On the rectory lawn is, perhaps, the finest *cedar of Lebanon* in England. The height is 67 ft.—circumference of farthest boughs, 90 yds. The tree was planted in 1627, and is said to have been then twenty years old. Its age is therefore about 300 years. The form is rounded rather than pyramidal; the colour is a silvery grey; and the branches, more like those of the *Deodara* than the *Lebanon cedar*, feather quite to the ground. The tree is healthy, still growing, and bears numberless cones. Under the great tent of shade the trunk and

branches appear—a mass of twisted and contorted limbs, which extend and cross in all directions. The tree closely resembles the native “giants” of Lebanon, and is well worth a visit.

$2\frac{1}{2}$  m. E. and on the border of the county, stood the *Church of Clapton*, the spire of which was blown up in the last century, “to save the expense of keeping it in repair.” It is said that from the tower, “Boston Stump” in Lincolnshire could be seen. The distance as the crow flies is about 60 m., and the land is a perfect level between the two places. A new *Church*, dedicated to St. Peter, of E. E. character, was built here in 1864.

#### $27\frac{3}{4}$ m. Barnwell (Stat.).

Barnwell, like many other places in Northamptonshire, contained two great manors, which formed two distinct parishes, Barnwell St. Andrew, and All Saints. Both came at last into the possession of the Montagues, and are now united, although each has its church. **Barnwell St. Andrew** (nearest to the Stat.) belonged to the Abbot of Ramsey at the time of the Domesday survey, and was formerly called Barnwell Le Moyne, from a family so named who held the manor in fee under the Abbot. One of these Le Moynes, Berenger, built a castle here about 1264; and on inquiry being made ten years later by Edw. I. by what warrant he had built it, he sold or ceded his whole right in castle and manor to the Abbot from whom he had held them. Berenger, nevertheless, seems to have been no friend to the monks; and the spoliations they endured from him are duly recorded by a contemporary. The Abbot retained the castle until the Dissolution, when it was sold to Sir Edward Montague about 1540. “At this village,” says Leland, “remain



the four strong towres, part of Berengarius Castle, after 'longing to Ramsey Abbey, and now to Montacute. Within the ruines of this castel is a meane house for a fermar." Sir Edward Montagu is said to have "repaired and beautified" the castle; but it soon fell into ruin, and became the chief stone quarry of the neighbourhood.

A picturesque house with gables and tall chimneys, long a farmhouse, but recently enlarged, lies beyond the castle. Another stretch of gabled building, serving as stables and offices, closes in the grounds on the N. House and stables may originally have been the work of Sir Edward Montagu, the "beautifyer." Fine old trees are scattered over the adjoining meadows, and the sketched may here find many subjects for his pencil. The castle itself consists of a great quadrangle, with trefoil-shaped towers at the angles, and an entrance gateway between flanking towers, which are rounded. The gateway has two pointed arches, and close to the outer arch is the slit for the portcullis. There was a chamber over the gate, and one opening from it on either side, into the round towers. Walls and towers seem to have kept their full height, and are lofty. The whole may very well be the work of Berenger le Moyne. The interior of the area is planted with fruit-trees.

The *Church* of Barnwell St. Andrew has been restored (1873). The tower is E. E. below, Dec. in the uppermost stage, with a Dec. spire. The S. porch is E. E., the N. door rich Dec. The aisle windows also are Dec., and there are three Dec. sedilia at the end of the N. aisle. In the chancel was the coloured bust of *Nicholas Lathom*, rector, who died in 1620, and is to be commemorated for his widespread charities. (This bust has been removed into the adjoining

sacristy.) The inscription records that, though "parson of this church onlie by the space of fiftie and one yeares, and having noe other dignitie or lands or goods left him by his auncestors," he "builded two hospitals," one in Barnwell for fourteen poor people, and one in Oundle for eighteen widows;—he founded five free schools—in Barnwell, Oundle, Hemington, Weekley, and Brigstock;—"gave many other charitable gifts," as two exhibitions at Cambridge, "repayr of bridges and highways," and yearly clothing to forty-five poor children, "all which doe amount to the sum of 300*l.* by the year for ever." He was married, and had one son, "which died an infant." "Parson" Lathom, as he was called, was the son of John Lathom, keeper of "Brigstock great park." His alms-house and school-house here remain near the church.

The *Church* of **Barnwell All Saints**, or King's Barnwell,  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. up the stream, has disappeared, with the exception of the chancel, which until lately was used as a burying-place for that branch of the Montagus represented by the Earls of Sandwich. Some remains of the residence of the Montagus may be seen in a field near the church. There are here some long inscriptions, recording Montagu descents and alliances, including one by the indefatigable Mrs. Creed, the cousin of Dryden. She had a house here, where her daughter died. There are few churches in this neighbourhood which could not at one time boast of a "painted cloth," a "table of the Commandments," or a monument, designed and painted by Mrs. Creed.

In the bank below the churchyard are many wells, which probably gave name to the parish. A gold ring with raised medallions, one of which displays an abbot

in his robes, was found here in 1844.

$1\frac{1}{2}$  m. W. is **Lilford Park** (Lord Lilford). The house is a fine Charles I. mansion, built by the family of Elmes in 1635, much altered by Sir Thomas Powys, who became owner of the manor in 1711. His descendant was created Baron Lilford in 1797. The house stands high, among thick and noble woods, and is approached on all sides by very fine avenues of elms. There are terraced gardens; besides aviaries and menageries containing some rare and interesting birds and animals, collected and cared for by the late Lord Lilford. Lilford Church, pulled down at the end of last century, contained many monuments of the Elmes, who obtained the manor by marriage early in the reign of Henry VII. The great feature of Lilford and its neighbourhood is the quantity of wood, planted for the most part about 1773, in emulation of the Boughton woods and avenues (see Rte. 9), due to Duke John "the Planter," who died in 1749.

$1\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.E. is **Polebrook**. The Church of All Saints is of much interest. There was here at first a late Norm. church. An E. E. tower and spire were added on the S. side, and in connection with this, the S. arcade was altered, and E. E. transepts and a chancel built. The Norm. arch into the choir, and the N. arcade were left. The E. E. work is throughout very beautiful.

The N. arcade of nave has broad, massive piers, with round (Trans.-Norm.) arches. The volute on the capitals of the piers indicates their late period. The E. E. arcade opposite is far loftier. The capital of the central pier is enriched with leafage—and the lofty arches are round-headed—an adaptation to the Norm. work, N. An E. E. arch opens into

the tower, at the S.W. end of the aisle. The S. transept is much shallower than that N., and has an E. E. double piscina in the S. wall. The N. transept has a very beautiful E. E. wall arcade, with detached shafts. There are six arches on the W. side, three on the N. The mouldings, and the ornaments at the crown of the arches, chiefly foliage, deserve careful attention. There is an ambry at the end of the arcade on the N. side, a Dec. N. window, and two very good Dec. windows, inserted in E. E. openings, on the east. The view across the nave from this transept is especially striking. The E. window of the chancel is c. 1220, and evidently belongs to the best periods of E. E., and a piscina is figured by Rickman. The tracery of the great W. window was removed by the singers in lawless days. The gallery which they occupied has disappeared in its turn, and the church has been well restored. There is a very old and primitive-looking clock in the tower.

Polebrook, which gives name to the hundred, stands on a small stream flowing into the Nene. The manor, after passing through various hands, came, early in the reign of Henry III., into those of Robert Fleming, who conveyed it, together with the advowson of the rectory, to John de Caletto, Abbot of Peterborough (he died in 1262, 46th Hen. III.). The manor henceforth remained in the hands of Peterborough Abbey until the Dissolution; and there can be little doubt but that the E. E. work in the church is due to that great monastery, and was begun soon after Polebrook became the property of the Abbot (who bestowed it on the community).

$2\frac{1}{2}$  E. on the Huntingdonshire border is the village of **Lutton**.

4 m. E. from Barnwell Stat. is **Hemington**. The Church of St.



Peter and St. Paul was rebuilt in 1866 in Dec. style. In the chancel, which was added in 1873, are ten carved oak miserere stalls, said to have been removed from Fotheringhay Castle.

1 m. S.E. is **Luddington-in-the-Brook**, on the borders of Huntingdonshire. The *Church* of St. Margaret of Antioch (restored in 1875) is a 15th-cent. building, chiefly remarkable for its curious gargoyles.

Leaving Barnwell Stat., and crossing a deep bend of the Nene, at

**30 $\frac{1}{4}$  m. ★ OUNDLE** (Stat.); on the rt. is the *Abbott's Mill*, formerly belonging to the monastery of Peterborough. The Stat. is  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. from the town, and a long and ancient bridge over the Nene is crossed on the way. Oundle—the name has been interpreted as “Avon dale,” and “Nen” itself is said to be a corruption of “Avon,” but very questionably—is one of the pleasantest towns in Northamptonshire, with broad, clean streets, picturesque oriel windows, and a general air of antiquity. It was undoubtedly a Roman site. Roman relics of various kinds have been found in every part of the town (a fragment of a cup, not Samian, with a bacchanalian procession, is figured in Smith's ‘*Coll. Antiq.*’ It was found in the churchyard), and in excavating for the Rly. Stat., many Roman coins and vases were discovered, ranging from those of Claudius to the latest period. Oundle was a very early possession of the Peterborough monastery, founded by Oswi, King of Northumbria, and Peada, son of Penda of Mercia, in 655. It is uncertain whether the place had already become attached to Peterborough when Wilfrith of Northumbria established a small monastery at Oundle, in which he died in 709 (“*Defunctus est autem in monasterio suo, quod habebat in*

*provincia Undalum sub regimine Cudualdi abbatis.*”—Bede, ‘*H. E.*’ v. 19. In the ‘*Sax. Chr.*’ the name is also written “Undalum”); but the Roman site and ruins may have induced him to build here. His body was conveyed hence to Ripon.

The *Church* of St. Peter remained in possession of Peterborough until the Dissolution, and it is to that monastery that the construction of the fabric must be assigned. It is built of the local oolite, very full of shells. The church was restored (1864) under the direction of *Sir G. G. Scott, R.A.*, and the spire, the date on which, 1634, probably marks a former rebuilding, having become unsafe, was taken down as far as the uppermost lights, and rebuilt in 1874. The tower, on which the spire rests, was restored in 1892, and the spire further repaired in 1899. The nave and aisles are E. E., with Dec. windows inserted, and a Dec. clerestory. The transepts and chancel are early Dec.; the tower Trans.; and fine S. porch Perp. In the nave remark the very fine piers and capitals, which have the nail-head ornament, and overhang very deeply. The bases are high, and the piers single and round, of a French rather than an English type (comp. Tichmarsh, *ante*). The rough stonework, in accordance with a fashion among “restorers” not greatly to be commended, has been left exposed in nave and transepts. In the chancel it is plastered. There is a good modern E. window. In the N. transept is another modern window, inserted by the Grocers' Company, which is connected with Laxton's School here (see *post*). There are remains of ancient colouring, a good pattern in red, on the arch opening to the S. aisle from the chancel. The roofs throughout are ancient, but not the original ones. The *pulpit*, dating late in the 14th cent., deserves special attention. The richly decorated panels are coloured in black

and red; and gold stars of metal are fixed on the black ground. The lectern also is a very fine specimen of the brass eagle type, dating from about 1443. There is a crypt with groined roof under the S. transept. The church contains no monuments of importance. The tower, late Perp., has very tall windows with flamboyant tracery in the belfry stage, and a picturesque, open battlement. The S. porch, with a parvise, the front of which has three niches between the windows, and which has excellent carving—sprays of oak and other foliage—on the stone vaulting, is also late Perp., and, according to Leland, was the work of “one Robert Viate (Wyatt), a marchaunt of the towne, and Johan his wife. They made also on the S. side of that chirche yarde a praty almose house of squarid stone, and a goodly large haule over it for the bretherhodde of the chirch. The Scripture in brasse on the almose house doore berith the date . . . 1485.” This “praty Almose house” was rebuilt by Slater.

Laxton's Grammar School, which adjoins it, was also rebuilt. This school was founded by Sir William Laxton, a native of Oundle, and “bred a grocer” in London; where he became Lord Mayor in 1544. (He died in 1556.) There is an alms-house attached; and over the entrance are the lines—

“Undellæ natus, Londini parta labore  
Laxtonus posuit senibus puerisq. leva-  
men.”

In 1878 the modern and classical sides of Laxton's school were separated; the former, occupying the original site, continues under the name of “Laxton School,” while the latter was transferred to a fine block of buildings (1883), where, under the name of “Oundle School,” it flourishes as a first grade public boarding-school. Opposite the cloisters of the school buildings is

the old school-house, erected in 1799. It is now converted into laboratories and music rooms. Fuller, whose brother was an alumnus of this school, speaks of it as being “well maintained at this day by the Worshipful Company of Grocers, and hath been to my knowledge the nursery of many scholars most eminent in the university.”

In 1879 a chapel of ease to the parish church was built by Sir A. W. Blomfield, A.R.A., through the munificence of the late David Watts-Russell, Esq., of Biggin Hall. The ground-plan forms a Greek cross, and is said to stand on or near the ancient site of Wilfrith's Monastery, that venerable house being one of the earliest centres of Christianity among the Middle Angles. In addition to Laxton's Hospital for old men, there is a hospital for old women, founded in 1616 by Parson Lathom.

Oundle was the birthplace, in the reign of Elizabeth, of a fierce enthusiast named William Hacket, who attempted to play the part of John of Leyden, and proclaimed himself the Messiah. He had two attendants, whom he called his prophets of mercy and of judgment. All three were apprehended in London, and Hacket was hanged in Cheapside in 1591.

The Rev. Robert Wilde, the Puritan poet, was buried at Oundle in 1679.

The northern portion of Northamptonshire retains much of its ancient forest character, and Oundle will be found the best centre from which to make one or two excursions of interest. One round may be to the “New and Old buildings” at Lyveden; thence to Brigstock and Farming-woods; returning to Oundle by Benefield. A second expedition may embrace Cotterstock and Tansor. Fotheringhay is 4 m. N. of



Oundle, but it is more easily reached from Elton Stat. (see *post*).

The **Lyveden Buildings** are about 5 m. S.W. of Oundle and well deserve a visit. The "**New build**" (as it is locally called) was the work of Sir Thomas Tresham, father of Francis Tresham, famous for his connection with the "Gunpowder Plot." The original plans were by *John Thorp*, and are still preserved in the Soane Museum. The Treshams, whose chief Northamptonshire property was at Rushton, near Kettering (see Rte. 12), acquired Lyveden in the reign of Henry VI. Sir Thomas, the builder here, was by birth a Protestant, and was knighted by Queen Elizabeth at her famous visit to Kenilworth in 1577. Within three years of that date, after the missionary priests came into England, he was converted by Campian, and reconciled to the Church of Rome. Thenceforward he suffered much on account of his belief, being heavily fined and repeatedly imprisoned as a "Popish recusant," that is, as one of those who refused to attend the Protestant worship. Before the death of Elizabeth, much encouragement had been secretly given by James to the Romanists, in order to gain their support, and considerable expectations had certainly been raised in the mind of Sir Thomas Tresham. He was one of the first, at no little personal risk, to proclaim James at Northampton; and his son Francis (afterwards the conspirator), with his brother Lewis and their brother-in-law, Lord Monteagle (to whom the well-known letter was written), were very active on the same occasion in supporting the Earl of Salisbury in London. Within three months after the arrival of James in England, Sir Thomas Tresham, with other Romanists, was invited to court, and was assured that it was the intention of the king to allow greater freedom in the exercise of religious

worship, and especially to relieve all Romanists from the burden of the fines imposed by the statute of Elizabeth. Accordingly, the fines for recusancy, which in the last year of Elizabeth's reign amounted to 10,000*l.*, were reduced to 300*l.* in the first of James. It thus appears that Sir Thomas Tresham was reasonably expecting much indulgence and relaxation in the severe laws "against harbouring of Popish priests and professors"; and it was, no doubt, with this expectation that he began the "**new build**," which, it has been conjectured, was intended for a religious house, and is at any rate covered with symbols and inscriptions, such as in the days of Elizabeth would hardly have been tolerated. It stands on high ground, in an open space round which woods close up on almost every side. The plan is that of a Greek cross. The entrance was on the N. side, immediately opposite the arm which contained the staircase; and an archway bears on its keystone the arms of Tresham (the founder), and of his wife, a Throckmorton. The rooms in the interior were numerous, and there is a large and deep bay window at the termination of each limb of the cross. But by far the most remarkable features of the building are the sculptures and inscriptions, which run, the former above the second story, the latter above the third. The sculptures are in roundels, and represent the emblems of Our Lord's Passion and Crucifixion,—the purse, the lanthorn, torches, spear, and sword; the cross, ladder, hammer, and nails; the seamless garment and dice; the crowing cock and the scourges. There are also the X.P. within a wreath, on which are the letters E.T.N., being the initials of the inscription, *Ἐν τούτῳ νικᾷ* (in hoc signo vinces), on the sacred banner or *labarum* of Constantine, and I.H.S. with a cross, and "*Esto mihi*" round the border. These subjects

are repeated so as to encircle the whole building, and have been executed with much care. Round the uppermost story are (or were—they have been much ruined and defaced) the following sentences in capitals:—"Jesus mundi salus + Gaude mater Virgo Maria + Verbum autem crucis pereuntibus quidem stultitia est + Jesu beatus venter qui te portavit + Maria virgo sponsa innupta + Benedixit tibi Deus in æternum Maria + Mihi autem absit gloriari nisi in cruce Domini nostri." Round the lowest story are numerous shields for arms, some of which are unfinished, and others have their outlines barely traced. All this, together with the general condition of the building, indicates that the work was abandoned in haste; and, according to Bridges, it was never roofed in. It was probably begun by Sir Thomas Tresham immediately on the accession of James. There is no reason for believing that he had any knowledge whatever of the plot in which his son was involved; and he died in 1605. His eldest son Francis, who succeeded him, was in the Tower within two months of his father's death, and died there before the end of a third month. Rushton was confiscated, but Lyveden was allowed to pass to the next brother Lewis, who had no care to finish the "new build," and it sank into its present condition, a ruin whose desolate chambers are lined with wild plants and low elder-bushes. Bridges asserts that "when Major Butler with a detachment of the Parliament forces was in these parts, he was not able to demolish this house, but he caused the timber to be sawed out of the walls, and, carrying it to Oundle, built with it that house which is now Major Creed's."

Sir Thomas Tresham was a zealous architect. "Hard to say," writes Fuller, "whether greater his de-

light, or skill in buildings, though more forward in beginning, than fortunate in finishing, his fabricks." Like the "new build," he left a market house at Rothwell (the town near his house of Rushton) unfinished, but with a design which resembles that of the Lyveden building; and at Rushton itself (see Rte. 9) the remarkable triangular lodge remains, to bear witness to the same love of emblematical sculpture on the part of the designer, as is shown here. (All these structures are illustrated in 'The Buildings of Sir Thomas Tresham,' by J. Alfred Gotch, 1883.)

The Old building at Lyveden, generally called the "old build," lies close under the "new build," and is now a substantial and picturesque farm-house. It stands on the site of an earlier building, as indicated by the few remains worked in, but the present building was probably the work of Lewis Tresham, the 2nd son of Sir Thomas. In the house is a fine staircase, resembling that in the present rectory at Pilton, which formerly was the manor-house, and belonged to another branch of the Treshams (see *ante*). This old building displays no sign of the peculiar style which at a later period was affected by Sir Thomas. Leland mentions "parte of an auncient manor place, and godely medows aboute it," as existing at Lyveden when he visited it, and there still remain, above the old building, mounds and terraces, with large moats or fish-tanks, which may mark the site of such a "manor," converted in later days into a "pleasaunce." The lordship of Lyveden (the termination "den" indicates its position in the midst of the forest of Rockingham), extended into several parishes—Brigstock, Benefield, the Aldwincles, and Pilton,—and indeed may have been in a certain sense extra-parochial, as having been at



first a grant or a settlement within the royal forest.

2 m. W. of Lyveden is the village of **Brigstock** (so named from a bridge over the Harper's Brook, which runs through it), a manor in the heart of the old forest, where the very early work in the Church of St. Andrew, restored by *Slater* and *Carpenter*, should attract the antiquary. The lower stage of the tower has all the characteristics of Saxon work, and the greater part of the building is considered to be earlier than the Conquest. There is a rude triangular-headed doorway, and a round-headed stilted arch into the nave. The whole deserves careful examination. The church was given by Henry I. to Cirencester Abbey. The old market cross stands in the centre of the village, the base and steps appear to be ancient, but the upper portion was erected in 1586.

Here are the kennels of the Woodland Pytchley Hunt. Adjoining is the manor-house, a 15th cent. building, with Elizabethan additions, and recently enlarged. It is occupied by Lord Southampton, the Master of the Hounds. In the parish, and a short distance N. of the village, is *Farmingwoods* (J. G. Muir, Esq., J.P.), with some fine remains of ancient wood about it. The house was originally a shooting-box in Rockingham Forest, and was given by Queen Elizabeth to Sir Christopher Hatton. About  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. W. on the boundary of the parish is a stone with the inscriptions, "In this place grew Bocase Tree," and "Here stood Bocase Tree"—a boundary of the forest. The word "Bocase" was perhaps bow-case, and seems to indicate that Robin Hood used the tree as a "case" for his bows. There is a tradition that he used to hunt in Rockingham Forest, which extended so far. More probably, however, the word may be derived from the Brocas,

long hereditary masters of the king's buckhounds in the forest.

Two older traditions are also worth noticing. One respecting a bell in Brigstock Church, on which there is the inscription, "John Barton gave me to the worship of God in Trinity." Tradition has it there was a law-suit between Sir John Zouch and the donor respecting the right of turning cows into the forest. He said he would turn a cow into the parish, which, when pulled by the tail, would still bellow when the name of Zouch was forgotten. Hence he gave the bell to be rung three times a day for ever. The bell is still rung once a day at 11 o'clock.

The other tradition refers to a large bone, about 7 ft. by 8 in., in Stanion Church (see Rte. 9). The story goes that this was the rib of the dun cow which used to give milk to all the parishioners. It was little consequence how large the vessel was, the cow always filled it. But one day a witch brought a riddle, and, because the cow could not fill it, she died of a broken heart.

The return to Oundle may be by **Benefield**, where the Church of St. Mary was rebuilt in 1847 (except the nave and 14th-cent. chancel). It is elaborately decorated, and there is much stained glass, also a finely carved reredos and rood screen, both painted and gilded. On high ground adjoining are the moats and foundations of a small castle, which was held by Nicholas of Bassingbourne in the reign of Henry III. The great "lawn" of Benefield, and of those open spaces within the forest, of which Morehay (see *post*) is now the best example, was, says Leland, "spacious and faire to course in." It was separated from the parish, to which it did not really belong, although named from it.

2 m. S.W. from Oundle is **Stoke**

**Doyle.** The *Church* of All Saints, an 18th-cent. classic building, erected in 1727. In the N. chapel is a monument by *Rysbrack* to Sir Edward Ward (d. 1714), and another in marble, by *Chantrey*, to Frances P. Roberts (d. 1819), wife of a former rector.

On the l. bank of the river, at 2 m. N. from Oundle, is **Cotterstock**, where the church is worth a visit, but where the chief interest lies in Dryden's associations with the place. *Cotterstock Hall* (Viscount Melville) was the house of his cousin, Mrs. Steward, daughter of Mrs. Creed, of Tichmarsh, the painter of so many church decorations and monuments, and the daughter of Sir Gilbert Pickering. Mrs. Steward was herself an artist; and Malone asserts that "the hall of Cotterstock House was painted in fresco by her, in a very masterly style, and she drew several portraits of her friends in Northamptonshire." John Dryden frequently visited her at this place; and Bridges tells us that he wrote his 'Fables' here, and spent the last two summers of his life at Cotterstock. (He died May 1, 1700.) This, however, is not true. He was busy with the 'Fables' throughout 1698 and 1699, and although he visited Cotterstock in the summer of either year, it is clear, from the dates of his letters, that neither of these visits exceeded three weeks or a month. He describes himself at other times as "still drudging at a book of Miscellanies" (the Fables), "which I hope will be well enough;" and if he did anything to them in the country, it can only have been in the way of retouching. "If your house be often so molested," he writes to Mrs. Steward, referring to his own visits, "you will have reason to be weary of it before the ending of the year; and wish Cotterstock were planted in a desert, an

hundred miles off from any poet." "Marrow puddings" and "chines of honest bacon" were sent by Mrs. Steward to the poet in London; and of the few letters of Dryden which exist, several were written to his cousins here. The picturesque house adjoins the road, from which a wide avenue opens to the entrance. It is, perhaps, of Tudor date, but has been much altered and changed, and Mrs. Steward's frescoes no longer decorate the hall. The largely developed chancel of *Cotterstock Church* of St. Andrew (restd. in 1877) is due to the college (for a provost and thirteen chaplains) founded here in 1337, the 11th year of Edw. III., by John Giffard, Canon of York. He endowed his new foundation with the manor of Cotterstock, the advowson of the church, mills and fisheries on the Nene, and some additional land. The College had liberty to appropriate the church to themselves; and accordingly the disproportionately large chancel was built soon after the new foundation, and is (curvilinear) Dec. with windows of unusual tracery of an oak-leaf pattern. The rest of the church is somewhat earlier,—the tower, E. E., circ. 1240, with very beautiful lights in the belfry stage (one is figured in the 'Glossary'). The nave is of the same date. In the chancel is a *brass* for Robert Wyntrynham, canon of Lincoln, and Provost of Cotterstock (d. 1420). He wears a cope.

A Roman tessellated pavement was discovered here in 1736, now at *Orton Hall* (Lord Huntley), also a large stone coffin which contained the remains of two bodies, said to be Romano-British. The bases of two stone crosses (restored) exist, one on the green and the other in the churchyard.

About  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m. W. from Cotterstock is the village of **Glaphorn**. The *Church* of St. Leonard, an E. E. and



Perp. building, contains an altar-tomb, which formerly had a *brass*.

About  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m. further N. is **Southwick**. In the *Church* of St. Mary is a monument by *Roubiliac* to George Lynn (d. 1758). The *Hall* (Rev. G. H. Capron, B.A.) is an old stone mansion, bearing the dates 1571 and 1580 on different portions of it; it contains a room formerly used as a chapel, and has a piscina in it.

On the opposite side of the river to Cotterstock is **Tansor**, where the *Church* of St. Mary is remarkable for a very long nave, and a most diminutive chancel. The church was originally late Norm., and in the E. E. period it would seem that the Norm. chancel was thrown into the nave, which was partly rebuilt, but with old materials. The existing short chancel was then added, together with a W. tower. "The internal aspect of the church is most singular, from the great variety and irregularity of the pillars and arches of its long nave," which has a very perceptible ascent in the pavement toward the E., besides a slope at nearly an equal angle toward the S. There are six arches N. and five S. The piers throughout, both of Norm. and of later date, are tall columns, the Norm. being far lighter than is usual in that style. The whole of the arches and their soffetes are covered with coloured decorations, imitated from ancient ones discovered on a removal of whitewash. There are some rude stalls among the sittings in the nave, which may have belonged to an older arrangement of the chancel, when (as is probable) it extended into the nave. Those at present in the chancel are much better, and are said to have come from Fotheringhay (see *Gent. Mag.*, Oct. 1861). There is a *brass* for John Colt, rector (d. 1440).

At Warmington,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. E., is a very fine and most interesting *Church*, dedicated to St. Mary. It is throughout E. E. with the original nave roof, *groined in wood*. There is a western tower with spire. The portal has four rows of shafts, and is richly ornamented with dog-tooth and open flowers. The belfry lights are much ornamented, and the broach spire has three rows of spire lights, surmounted by very elegant crosses. The windows of the S. aisle are trip-lets,—those of the N. are couplets of lancets, with enrichment above. The wooden groining of the nave (of five bays) starts from stone springers. The ribs spring from small shafts, terminating in capitals of exquisite foliage, which are supported on corbels, representing for the most part priests and bishops. Similar shafts, with equally beautiful foliage, support the second order of mouldings of the chancel arch, of which the capitals alone remain. The flatness of the roofs, which seem of the original pitch, deserves especial notice. The adoption of wooden groining, instead of stone, which appears to have been at first intended, was perhaps suggested by an apparent weakness of the walls. Warmington was, before the Conquest, in the hands of the "abbot and convent" of Peterborough, and remained with them until the Dissolution. This church, like that of Polebrook and many others, sufficiently indicates the care and cost bestowed on their outlying manors by that great abbey.

Proceeding from Oundle, the Rly. more than once crossing the winding Nene, with Warmington on the rt., Cotterstock and Tansor on the l. (see *ante*), and the mound and church of Fotheringhay are passed close at hand on the l. before reaching at

$34\frac{1}{2}$  m. Elton (Stat.). The vil-

lage lies to the E. in Huntingdonshire (see *H.Bk. for Hunts*).

This is the best point for the pedestrian who desires to make his way to **Fotheringhay**, distant  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. W. There is a pleasant field-path from Elton (inquire for it at the station).

The beautiful octagon of Fotheringhay church, seen above the trees which encircle the village, serves as some sort of guide in the walk from Elton Stat. The country here is gently undulating, very flat toward the south along the valley of the Nene, but eastward and northward rising gradually toward the higher ground of Rockingham forest, above Ape Thorpe. The village of Fotheringhay is, as in Leland's time, "but one street, al of stone building. The glorie of it standith by the parochie chirche of a fair buildid, and collegiatid." "There be," he adds, "exceeding goodly meadowes by Foderingey"—and the level pastures along the left bank of the Nene gave name to the place—the "hay" or enclosure (see *ante*, *Morehay lawn*) of the "fodder" meadow (*ing*). A line of ancient way, connected with the Ermine Street, here crossed the river by a ford a little below the village; and it was to guard this ford that the great mound on which the Castle keep afterwards stood, was thrown up, possibly by some Anglian or Danish possessor. (Similar mounds occur frequently along the banks of the Nene and the Ouse,—as at Clifford near Northampton (see *ante*). Their date is uncertain, and Roman relics have been found in and near some. In most cases, however, they appear to be later than the English conquest.) The first true castle here was probably the work of Simon of Senlis, also the builder of Northampton Castle (see Rte. 1). Fotheringhay had belonged to the Countess Judith, and passed to her daughter, wife of Earl

Simon,—who carried it, with the Earldom of Huntingdon, to David of Scotland, whom she married secondly. The manor continued in the hands of the Scottish princes and their descendants until it came at last to Devorguilla, daughter of Alan of Galloway, and wife of John of Baliol. They were the founders of Baliol College in Oxford, of which a certain Walter of Fotheringhay, appointed by them, was the first master. The Scottish holding of Fotheringhay ceased with the son of John and Devorguilla—the John Baliol who became king of Scotland. There was a short tenancy by John of Bretagne, Earl of Richmond, and his grand-daughter, Mary of Châtillon, foundress of Pembroke Hall in Cambridge; and the Honour of Huntingdon, which included this castle, was then granted by Edw. III. to his 5th son, Edmund of Langley, then a minor, and created Duke of York in the 9th year of his nephew, Richard II. Henceforth Fotheringhay became the principal and most favoured residence of the Plantagenets of York. Edmund of Langley rebuilt the greater part of the castle, and paid special attention to the keep, which he caused to be constructed in the form of a fetterlock, the "falcon and fetterlock" being the device assumed by him and his descendants. He also made the old parish church collegiate, and rebuilt the choir, in which the body of his son Edward, who succeeded him as Duke of York, and who fell at Agincourt, was solemnly interred. (Edward of York commanded the vanguard of archers in the battle, and did good service. He was, according to Leland, stifled in his armour during the heat and "throng" of the fight. His body was brought back to England.) The next possessor was Richard of York, who married Cicely Neville—the Plantagenet of Shakespeare's scene in the Temple gardens, the York who



fell at Wakefield, and whose head was set by Queen Margaret above Micklegate Bar,

“That York might overlook the town of York”—

Edward IV. removed the head of his father, and conveyed it, with the body, to Fotheringhay, together with the body of his brother, the young Earl of Rutland, killed at Wakefield by the “butcher Clifford.” They were buried in the choir, in the presence of the king, the queen, and of a great company of churchmen. The long procession had moved onward from Pontefract (where the body had been first laid to rest) in great splendour, and Richard of Gloucester, afterwards Richard III., rode behind the great funeral car. The widow of Richard of York, the Duchess Cicely, made Fotheringhay her principal residence during the 36 years that she survived her husband. He had completed the church begun by Edmund of Langley; and after her death at Berkhamstead in 1495, she also was interred in the choir here. Henry VII. settled Fotheringhay on his Queen, Elizabeth, the “white rose of York”; and afterwards made it a portion of the dowry of Catherine of Arragon on her marriage to Prince Arthur. She liked the place, and according to Leland “did great costs of refreshing it.” The rest of the story of the castle will best be told on the site itself. This site, with the *Church*, and the ancient *hostel* at the castle gates, are the places of interest to be visited in Fotheringhay.

In approaching from Elton, the long village street is first entered west of the church. Passing the church to the eastern end of the street, on the l. stands the hostel (now a farmhouse) certainly built by Edw. IV., and perhaps in preparation for the great assemblage of

persons at the funeral of Richard of York. It has been much restored, and the interior is almost entirely modern. The main portal remains, and is very picturesque, with ornamented spandrels, a row of graceful foiled openings above the main arch, a window for the porter's chamber, above, and shields of arms serving as terminations for the outer mouldings. The inner court was once surrounded with galleries. The hostel served especially for the accommodation of strangers visiting the castle; and during the trial of Mary, Queen of Scots, when the castle was filled with her train, and with the soldiers of Sir Amyas Paulet, the commissioners and judges sent down from London were compelled to house themselves in this building, and elsewhere in the village. The lords brought large retinues with them; and at least 2000 horse were quartered in Fotheringhay itself and in the neighbourhood.

Close beyond the hostel a farm gate opens to the fields over which extend the foundations of the **Castle**. The great keep mound rises in front, and on climbing to its summit the true position of the place is seen. The Nene flows close under the mound, and effectually defended the southern front of the castle. Beyond it, a wide view is commanded over all the level country S. and S.W., and the “forest ridges” stretch away N. and W. The mound itself is covered with foundations of the fetterlock tower raised on it by Richard of York; and a fragment of ruined wall, looking like a great mass of conglomerate, lies close below, on the bank of the river. A moat encloses the mound, and what was the inner court of the castle N. and E. Beyond this moat on the N. was the outer bailey, marked, like the rest of the ground, by traces of old walls

and divisions; and there was again (as appears from a survey of 1625, the last year of King James) an outer moat, enclosing the whole. In the inner court, and at the foot of the mound, was the great hall, described as "wonderful spacious,"—the chapel and "goodly lodgings." The castle was dismantled and "slighted," not by James I., as is usually asserted, but soon after the survey made in his last year. The buildings were sold piece by piece. The great hall was bought by Sir Robert Cotton, the antiquary, and removed by him to Conington in Huntingdonshire. Some other portions were used for building a chapel at Fineshade, in the neighbourhood; and, about the middle of the 18th cent. the last portions of the walls that remained were employed in constructing certain dykes and fences connected with the navigation of the Nene.

Queen Mary was brought here from Chartley in Staffordshire, in September, 1586. She was conducted to Fotheringhay by Sir Amyas Paulet, who remained about her, and was placed under the care of Sir William Fitzwilliam of Milton, then constable of the castle. There had been much discussion as to the place to which she should be removed. Hertford Castle, Northampton, and Woodstock were named—but to all there were greater objections than to Fotheringhay, still a strong place, and at a sufficient distance from the sea and from London. The Queen of Scots passed here the last five months of her life, closely watched, and not allowed to take her usual exercise on horseback, or to proceed beyond the castle gates. It was the first true prison house she had entered; and it is said that as she first caught sight of the castle towers she exclaimed "Pereo"—with a presentiment that she was about to enter the last of her English abodes. Here took place her

trial before the Judges and Commissioners: and here in the great hall (which Elizabeth had herself suggested as a more fitting place than the courtyard or the green) she was beheaded, Feb. 8th, 1586-7. The castle courts were thronged with people while the memorable scene was enacted within the hall; and the severed head, on a cushion of black velvet, was exposed to their view for an hour, from one of the large windows. The body of the queen remained here for six months after the execution; and on the 1st of August, 1587, it was conveyed to Peterborough Cathedral and interred there. (See *post*, Peterborough.) Her servants were detained at Fotheringhay for three months longer, and were only allowed to depart on the earnest representations of James of Scotland. A signet ring bearing the initials of Darnley and Queen Mary—H.M.—connected by love-knots, and having within the hoop a shield with the royal lion of Scotland and the name and date, "Henri L. Darnley, 1565," was found among the ruins here about 1830, and is now in the Waterton collection at the Victoria and Albert Museum, S. Kensington. (The most vivid account of the last days of Queen Mary here, and of her death, will be found in *Froude's* 'Hist.' vol. xii.)

Some large old thorn-trees grow on the site of the hall. The lodgings occupied by the queen adjoined it at the S. end; and had probably been those in which Elizabeth herself was lodged on a progress during which she visited Fotheringhay, and directed the reconstruction of the royal tombs in the church. (See *post*.) When Fuller visited the castle, he read, traced by a diamond in Mary's well-known handwriting, in the window of one of the lodging chambers—

"From the top of all my trust,  
Mishap hath laid me in the dust."



The present scene from the mound is little changed since the unhappy queen beheld it day after day in its winter dress—with the Nene everywhere flooding the lowlands. Many medical plants are found around the site of the castle, and a peculiar thistle is locally known as “Queen Mary’s tears.”

The *Church* of St. Mary and All Saints, which stands a little higher up the river, but still on the bank. Only the nave remains, and this suggests the former “glory” of Fotheringhay even more distinctly than the castle. When complete it must have been a church of unusual stateliness even for this country. It was Perp. throughout; begun by Edmund of Langley (who made it collegiate) and completed by that Richard of York who fell at Wakefield. Edw. IV. added a “fair cloister” and erected over the tombs of his father and brother what Leland calls a “pratie chapel.” On the suppression of the college under Edw. VI., the nave alone was retained for the use of the parishioners. The noble choir fell into ruin; and when Queen Elizabeth visited the place she found the “pratie chapel” and the tombs of her ancestors shattered, neglected, and open to the wind and rain. She caused the bodies to be removed into the existing nave, and ordered the erection of the monuments which remain on either side of the altar. In the interior of the church the fine and lofty Perp. arches, the great clerestory, the noble windows of the aisles, and the western tower arch with the groined vaulting beyond it, are striking. The whole bears the stamp of something far more dignified than a mere village church. The lofty aisle windows, four on each side, are especially noticeable. They were filled with stained glass, rich with figures of saints and prophets, and ablaze with all the bearings of the House

of York, and the shields of France and of England. This glass survived all earlier troubles, but was shattered and stolen in the 18th cent., through the carelessness of indifferent rectors and churchwardens. On either side of the altar are the monuments erected by order of Queen Elizabeth. They are tolerably good in design, but by no means of any great importance. A broad cornice is supported by fluted shafts with enriched capitals, and brief inscriptions record that each was “made in the year of our Lord 1573.” On the S. lies Edward of York, killed at Agincourt, and son of Edmund of Langley, builder of the vanished choir. On the N. are interred Richard, Duke of York killed at Wakefield (father of Edw. IV.), and his Duchess Cicely. Here also is laid the young Earl of Rutland. On a tablet in the S. aisle are the following lines, which record the beginning of the present church, and have been repainted or copied from the original inscription:—

“In Festi Martyrii processu Martiniani,  
Ecclesiæ prima fuit hujus petra locata.  
Anno Christi centum quatuor ac mille  
cum deca quinta.  
Henrici quinti tunc imminente secundo.”

The date thus given is 1415. The font is very good Perp. raised on steps; and the original pulpit remains, with a later (Jacobean) canopy. The nave roof is original, but very plain. Altogether, this church is one of the best examples in the kingdom for the study of the Perp. style; not only from the purity and beauty of the mouldings of doors, windows, and piers, but because the original contract for the work (the building of the nave) is still in existence (it will be found in Dugdale’s ‘*Monasticon*,’ and was published separately by Parker at Oxford in 1841), and its several details may be compared with the existing architecture. The contract is between William Woolston and Thomas

Pecham, commissaries of the Duke of York, and William Harwod, free-mason, of Fotheringhay. The duke was to find "carriage and stuff"; Harwod was to receive 300*l.* sterling, at different periods.

There are matrices of two brasses; and near the altar an inscription for Mr. Thomas, "Scholmaster of Fodringhay," 33 years, who died in 1589, and was perhaps present in the court of the castle when Queen Mary was beheaded. "*Pædotriba bonus*," begin the verses, "*jacet hic sub marmore lectus*."

The massive tower is surmounted by a lofty octagon, having a large Perp. window in each of its sides. The aisles have pinnaced buttresses, and flying buttresses are carried across to the top of the clerestory windows. "Either of the said aisles," runs the contract, "shall have six mighty arches, butting on either side to the clerestory." The cloister built by Edw. IV. was on the S. side of the nave, and has entirely disappeared. Leland saw the windows filled with figures, and "verses of the book caullid *Æthiopum terras*"—the "Eclogue" of Theodulus (d. 480)—"*De Miraculis Vet. Test.*" The college consisted of a master, twelve chaplains, eight clerks, and thirteen choristers. The ground on which the buildings stood had been assigned by Simon of Senlis to a house of Cluniac nuns, afterwards removed to Delapré.

A rude wooden bridge, which had been constructed across the old ford of the Nene, was replaced by a stone bridge in 1573. Stukeley saw this bridge, with an inscription recording that it was "made by Queen Elizabeth," and above, "God save the Queen"—the latter words half hacked away by (it was said) the swords of Cromwell's Ironsides. In 1722 the whole gave place to the bridge which now exists.

Proceeding from Elton, the Riy.

enters the N.W. corner of Huntingdonshire, and reaches

**37 m. Wansford** (Stat. in Huntingdonshire). The village lies to the N.W. in Northamptonshire (see Rte. 11).

1 m. N. of Wansford Stat. is the little Norm. Church of St. Michael at Sutton, worth notice. There is a curious termination of a stone bench, consisting of a couching lion with a monster on its back, which is probably cœval with the fabric. The N. doorway is E. E.

**38½ m. Castor** (Stat.). Here there are two objects of interest: the Church, and the Roman station.

The Roman settlement of *Duro-brivæ* lay on both sides of the river; and the names of *Castor* on the left bank, and *Chesterton* on the right, indicate that they both represent it, or outworks connected with it. (The northern form "*Castor*" and the southern "*Chester*" are here brought into close juxtaposition. It is not easy to account for the difference. The former may perhaps be more Danish than Anglian.)

The Church of St. Kyneburgha at Castor is chiefly noticeable for its very fine late Norm. tower. This is central; and over the priest's door in the present chancel is a dedication stone, removed from the Norm. chancel, and still quite legible. The inscription runs XV. KL. MAI. Dedicatio hujus ecclesie. A.D. M.C. XXIII., thus recording the dedication as having taken place April 17, 1124. But the last figures were carved at a much later date than the rest, and are incised instead of standing in relief; and the date thus given would not be trustworthy but for its confirmation by the 'Peterborough Chronicle' (sub ann. 1124). To this Norm. church aisles were added about the middle of the 13th cent., abutting against



the W. walls of the original transepts, and blocking their windows. The chancel was rebuilt (or took the place of a Norm. apse) somewhat earlier; and the walls of the transepts were raised. On the *exterior* remark especially the Norm. tower, which rises in two stages above the roof. The lower stage has windows of two lights; the upper an arcade of five arches, three of which are pierced for belfry windows. All the walls are covered with rich designs, introducing square, billet, hatchet, and scalloped ornaments; but are shallow, and such as would not require the use of a chisel. The spire is of the 14th cent., and rises within a cumbrous parapet of the same date. The lofty roof of the transept is due to the raising and alteration of the Norm. walls in the 13th cent. *Within*, the nave arcades are of the 13th cent., that on the S. side, with round piers and arches, and the nail-head ornament in the capitals being the earlier. The N. arcade has octagonal piers and pointed arches. The tower is raised on four massive piers, of which the capitals and bases were restored in 1851. Two capitals of the N.E. pier are entirely new, the originals having been destroyed to make room for a monument. The carving of the old work, rich with figures of men and animals, unlike that of the exterior, must have required the chisel. The N. transept is separated from the aisle by a stone screen, consisting of open quatrefoils below supporting a series of niches, the central niche having a pedestal for the figure of St. Kyneburgha (see *post*). This screen formed the reredos behind the altar of the N. aisle, which was probably dedicated to the saint. A staircase in the transept leads to the belfry, and above the roof is a curious priest's chamber. The S. transept is much more spacious than the N., and has an eastern aisle. There is an inscription cut

in the wood round the door of the S. aisle, which runs, "Ricardus Beby rector ecclesie de Castre fecit," but no rector of this name occurs in any registers. The chancel is raised five steps; and its E. E. rebuilders retained or replaced the Norm. sedilia. There is a double piscina, richly carved with dog-tooth. The roofs of nave and transepts are Perp., with shield-bearing angels. They were restored, together with the whole church, in 1851. There are no monuments of importance. In the churchyard is part of a Saxon cross.

From the Restoration until 1851, the living of Castor was attached to the see of Peterborough, and was held in commendam with it. The manor and advowson belonged to the great abbey from a very early period until the Dissolution. St. Kyneburgha, whose name as a patron saint is preserved only in this parish, was one of four daughters of Penda, King of the Mercians, and was the wife of Alfred, King of Northumbria. About the year 650 she founded a convent here, among the Roman ruins (in the record of her life the place is called *Dormund-ceastre*), became herself its abbess, died, and was buried here. Her body and that of her sister, St. Kyniswith, were removed early in the 11th cent. by Abbot Ælfsi to Peterborough; and the remarkable monument now preserved in the "new building" of the cathedral, and long regarded as the memorial of Abbot Hedda and the monks killed by the Danes in 870, far more probably, as Mr. Bloxam has suggested, was placed over the relics of these sisters, since it is certainly not older than the abbacy of Ælfsi, 1005-1055. (See *post*, *Peterborough Cathedral*.) (The translation of the bodies by Abbot Ælfsi is recorded in the 'A.-S. Chron.')

Although the Roman settlement

of *Durobrivæ* extended on both sides of the river, the principal entrenchment was on the left bank, nearly opposite Castor Mills. The Ermine Street, running N. from Godmanchester toward Stamford and Lincoln, passed through the station, and was known as "Lady Coneyborough's Way," from a tradition that when St. Kyneburgha was once pursued by two ruffianly assailants, the road unrolled itself before her as she fled, and thus enabled her to escape.

"Then lo! before her the rough way grows  
plain,  
Green velvet lawns her flying footsteps  
tread:  
Behind, the baffled miscreants toil in vain  
O'er rock and chasm and rugged torrent-  
bed."

The station, now called "the Castles," remains tolerably perfect, in form an irregular hexagon, 2200 ft. long, and 1300 wide, diminishing to 600 ft. at its S. end. It is surrounded by a fosse and vallum. There is a tumulus within the camp; and on the greater part of its area portions of Roman buildings, and much pottery, have been discovered. It is said that a bridge across the Nene formerly existed here, connecting *Durobrivæ* with its suburb on the opposite bank, where is now the village of Castor. Of this bridge there are no traces; but the whole of the ground occupied by Castor was covered with important Roman buildings, apparently separate villas, or private houses. These remains are for the most part figured in Artis's '*Durobrivæ*,' a series of plates (without letter-press or description) published in 1821. Artis discovered numerous tessellated pavements; one of them, of which the design is very good, was laid down in an ante-room to a dairy at Milton (see *post*, Exc. from Peterborough). The tesserae are for the most part grey, white, red and yellow, and of local manufacture. Nearly all the houses were

warmed by hypocaustal chambers; and in one case a room was found lined with slabs of Alwalton marble, and another with white stone tesserae laid in cement. Few sculptures or inscribed stones have been discovered. A circular miliary stone bore a dedicatory inscription to Hadrian. Many small bronze instruments and ornaments have occurred, and a set of models was found here for casting at once 62 small brass coins; in one of the moulds a coin of Severus had been left. Coins ranging from Galba to Theodosius have been found; and in the neighbourhood of the great entrenchment they were at one time so numerous that an old writer says "a man would really think they had been sown." The main cemetery was outside the S.E. portion of the camp, where many skeletons have been turned up, laid in regular order, but without coffins. On the N.W. side of the camp stone coffins containing skeletons have been found. Other such coffins have occurred on the road between the camp and Chesterton. A little to the E. of the camp was an "ustrina," or place for burning bodies; still covered, when found, with charcoal and ashes, mingled with small fragments of bones and pottery; and in making a turnpike-road towards Wansford, urns of different shapes and colours, some containing coins, but all filled with burnt bones, were found in great numbers.

There was a smaller camp at *Chesterton* (see *H. Blk. for Hunts*), about 1 m. S.W. of *Durobrivæ*, and on the same side of the river. The hamlet of Alwalton, close adjoining, indicates by its name how thickly the country had been covered with Roman buildings; but the great distinction of *Durobrivæ* was its *pottery*. The local clay was found excellent for the purposes of the potter; and kilns and great works extended round Castor and its neighbourhood for about 20 m. up and down the Nene



valley. Roman potters' kilns have been found nowhere else in England so perfect, or in so great numbers. One of these, found in 1822 in Normangate field, "was of a spherical form, 33 in. in diam., and composed of terra-cotta tiles surrounded by curved moulded bricks." Beneath was a furnace, access to which was provided by means of an arched aperture in a wall forming the front of the kiln. Within this kiln were found various vessels, left there by the Roman potter who made them; one, a vase of grey ware, having borders of indented work, and decorative ornaments in raised white clay; another, of dull red colour, with indented sides. The kilns seem to be of different dates; and the Durobrivian ware was very superior to that made in the Upchurch marshes, and was indeed the best made in this country under the Romans. It occurs glazed and unglazed; red, brown, grey, black, white and cream-coloured. "The vessels, on which are displayed a variety of hunting subjects, representations of fishes, scrolls, and human figures, were all glazed after the figures were laid on; where, however, the decorations are white, the vessels were glazed before the ornaments were added." Some of the vessels are stamped with the name of the potter. The designs are often spirited; and the forms very graceful. Drinking cups, lamps, jars, bottles, bowls and dishes, were made here; and Durobrivian ware found its way over the greater part of Roman Britain. Besides the pottery, iron weapons and ornaments were made here extensively under the Romans; and hatchets, spear and arrow heads, bolts and rings are turned up in great numbers. The native iron ore was used; and the manner in which the metal was extracted was clearly shown in an iron furnace found at Wansford. Durobrivæ was thus a very im-

[Northamptonshire.]

portant centre, and of far greater consequence than its namesake on the Medway—the English Rofesceastre = Rochester. In both cases Durobrivæ is the British name Latinised, and refers to the river (Dwr) on which each place stands. The "brivæ" has been variously explained, but seems to signify the ferry, passage, or bridge across the water. After passing

40 $\frac{3}{4}$  m. Overton (Stat.), in Huntingdonshire, the line reaches

43 $\frac{1}{2}$  m. ★ PETERBOROUGH (Stat.). This is the Stat. for the Great Eastern, Midland, and the London & N. W. Rlys. It is on the S. side of the Nene in Huntingdonshire (crossed by a bridge from Peterborough), and is about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the Cathedral. The G. N. Rly. Stat. is entered from Cowgate, in the N. part of the city. This Stat. is also used by the Midland Rly. The Gt. Northern and the Midland Railway Companies have extensive works, sheds, and warehouses here, which are in fact "railway villages": that of the Gt. Northern about 1 m. from the city, a district called "New England," and that of the Midland at the hamlet of Spital. These works afford employment to great numbers of the inhabitants.

The "burgh of St. Peter" is one of those English towns (Bury St. Edmund's is another striking example) which have grown up round great monastic establishments, and do not, like Lincoln, York, or Exeter, occupy the sites of British and Roman stations. The monastery here was founded, on the border of the fen country, in 655, by Saxulf, a Saxon priest, with the assistance and protection of Peada, King of Mercia, son of the fierce heathen Penda. Peada had himself become a Christian about three years before; and the Christianisation of Mercia—which a very few years saw the

best governed and best organised province of the Church—began in the same year as that which saw the foundation of Peterborough. The site was in the country of the northern “Gyrvii,” or Fen men (*gyr*, A.-S. = a fen), long a sort of debatable land between Mercia and East Anglia; but certainly Mercian after the conversion of that kingdom. The southern Gyrvii remained more nearly connected with E. Anglia; and both the N. and S. fens had been Christianised (no doubt from E. Anglia) long before Mercia received the faith. Thomas, the second native Englishman consecrated a bishop, was a Gyrvian, and succeeded St. Felix in the see of Dunwich in 647. The fen country, whatever we may now think of it, possessed infinite charms in the eyes of monastic writers. They praise it for its wide extent, its pleasant appearance (*visu decora*), its streams, lakes, and islands, its plenty of wood, abundant fisheries, and quantity of game and waterfowl. Peterborough was the first of the great Benedictine abbeys established either in the midst of the fens, or on their borders. “In truth the country was well suited to the then stage of English monastic life. It was convenient both for the missionary and the anchoretic life. It was secluded, and yet near to the centres of population; it was politically possessed of a sort of quasi-independence that afforded security to the missionaries sent from Christian Gyrvia into half-converted Mercia.” (*Stubbs*, “on the Foundation and early Fasti of Peterborough,” ‘Archæol. Journal,’ vol. xviii.)

The new monastery was founded at a place called *Medeshamstede* (meadow homestead?); and its position, on the edge of the marsh country, and not, like Ely, Thorney, or Ramsey, on an island rising from the fens, explains why a larger and

more important “burgh” grew up round Medeshamstede than round the other fen monasteries. Saxulf, the founder, became the first abbot; and probably retained the abbacy after he became bishop of Lichfield in 675. The monastery “hallowed in the names of St. Peter, St. Paul, and St. Andrew” (hence the name of “Peterburgh,” which at last superseded “Medeshamstede”), flourished until 870, when the Danes, under Ingvar and Hubba, devastated East Anglia and Mercia; and Ely, Medeshamstede, and Crowland were all plundered and destroyed. For nearly a century Medeshamstede remained desolate; until about 966, Athelwold, bishop of Winchester, as distinguished a “constructor” or architect under King Edgar as his successor William of Wykeham was under Edw. III., caused it to be rebuilt, together with many other religious houses which had been destroyed by the Northmen. It was henceforth—probably from being surrounded with a wall of defence—called *Burgh*, a “similitudine urbis,” says William of Malmesbury. Before another hundred years had passed, Peterborough had become one of the wealthiest and most important monasteries in England. Its abbot, Leofric, a nephew of his namesake, the great Earl Leofric of Mercia, “was so high in the favour of the Confessor and his Queen” that he held five abbeys at once—Burton, Coventry, Crowland and Thorney, besides Peterborough. He ruled the great house of St. Peter for thirteen years—procured lands and ornaments of all kinds for it, and “gilded the minster so” (*i.e.* made it so rich in the precious metals) that men called it the “Golden Burgh.” He joined Harold before the battle of Hastings, and although wounded in the fight, managed to escape, and to return to Peterborough, where he died three days later. The monks elected a



certain Brand, and sent him to the Atheling Edgar for confirmation—an ignoring of the Conqueror for which they had afterwards to pay; and on the death of Brand in 1069, William made a Norman, named Turol, abbot. He was on his way to take possession, “with his Frenchmen,” when the monastery was attacked, plundered, and partly burnt, by the famous Hereward, who came up from Ely with a force composed of outlaws, rebellious tenants of the abbey, and the Danes who had come to England with Sweyne. Turol arrived to find the enemy departed, the monks scattered abroad, and one sick brother alone in the infirmary. It does not appear that the great church, though plundered, was severely injured by the fire, which, says the Chronicle, “burnt all the monks’ houses, and all the town, except one house.” The treasures were carried off by the Danes, whose ships were driven ashore during a great storm, and the “gold and silver” placed for security in the church of a certain town, whose name is not recorded. But through the drunkenness of its guardians, the church and all that was in it was burned in the night, and the relics of the wealth of the Golden Burgh were lost for ever. (For all this story of the attack on Peterborough by Hereward, see *Freeman’s ‘Norm. Conq.’* iv. ch. 20.) On the death of the Abbot Turol in 1100, the monks, who had paid 300 marks to the king for the privilege, elected an Englishman, Godric, nephew of their former Abbot Brand. But he was soon deposed; the abbey remained in the king’s hands for four years; and it was long before a true Englishman again held the abbacy, while the house was rapidly growing in wealth and importance. The privileges said to have been granted to the monastery by the Popes Vitalian and Agatho, are contained in

charters branded by Mr. Stubbs as “most shameless forgeries.” By them, the abbot is constituted Legate of Rome all over England, and consequently was entitled to precedence of all other abbots; the monastery is exempted from all taxes, and is made a place of pilgrimage equal for the obtaining of pardons to Rome itself. How far these pretended privileges were ever insisted on is not very clear; but “Peterborough the Proud,” as it was called, maintained its dignity, and at the outer gateway all visitors, of whatever rank, put off their shoes before entering the holy precincts.

One version of the English Chronicle was continued here to a later period than any of the others, ending in 1154, the year of King Stephen’s death. It is full of misused and fabricated charters, but is nevertheless of very great importance. A later ‘*Historia Petroburgensis*’ was edited by Stapleton for the Camden Society. This history has borrowed much from the ‘*Crowland History*’ of the Pseudo Ingulf, on which scholars had looked with much suspicion before its fictitious character was thoroughly exposed by Mr. H. J. Riley (*Archæol. Instit.* vol. xix.).

Of the abbots of Peterborough after the Conquest, those of especial note were, Ernulf, who had been Prior of Christ Church, Canterbury, and who, in 1114, became Bp. of Rochester; John of Sais, who began the choir of the existing cathedral; in 1117, Martin of Bec, who continued the work, and governed the house with great prudence during the troubled times of Stephen; William de Waterville, and Benedict, who completed the nave (the latter was Cœur-de-Lion’s keeper of the Great Seal); Robert de Sutton; Richard Ashton and Robert Kirton, who built the eastern additions, or “New Building”; and John Chambers, the last abbot and

first bishop of the new see, erected by Henry VIII. From its position, the monastery, like that of St. Alban's, was often made a resting-place by the kings of England on their way to or from the north. Edw. III., his queen, and court, kept the Easter festival here in 1327; on which occasion the abbot, Adam de Botheby, expended nearly 500*l*. Cardinal Wolsey kept the same feast here in great state in 1528; but although the abbey expended enormous sums in entertaining its royal and noble visitors, the local rhyme characterising the great monasteries of the fens indicates that it was scarcely so liberal as those of lower degree—

“ Ramsay the bounteous of gold and of fee,  
Crowland as courteous as courteous may  
be,  
Spalding the rich, and Peterborough the  
proud—  
Sawtre, by the way, that poor Abbaye,  
Gave more alms in one day  
Then all they.”

John Chambers, the last abbot, who, in the words of Gunton the historian of Peterborough, “loved to sleep in a whole skin, and desired to die in his nest,” resigned the abbey to the king on the 1st of March, 1540. He was then granted an annual pension of 260*l*.; but in the following year letters patent were issued for converting the monastic church into the cathedral of a new diocese, which was to extend over the counties of Northampton and Rutland, hitherto comprised in the great diocese of Lincoln. The church is said to have been spared as a monument to Catherine of Arragon. Henry VIII., it is asserted, replied to a suggestion, “How well it would become his greatness to erect a fair monument for her.”—“Yes, I will leave her one of the goodliest in the kingdom”—meaning the church of Peterborough. The annual value of the monastery at the Dissolution was 2100*l*. Of this the king re-

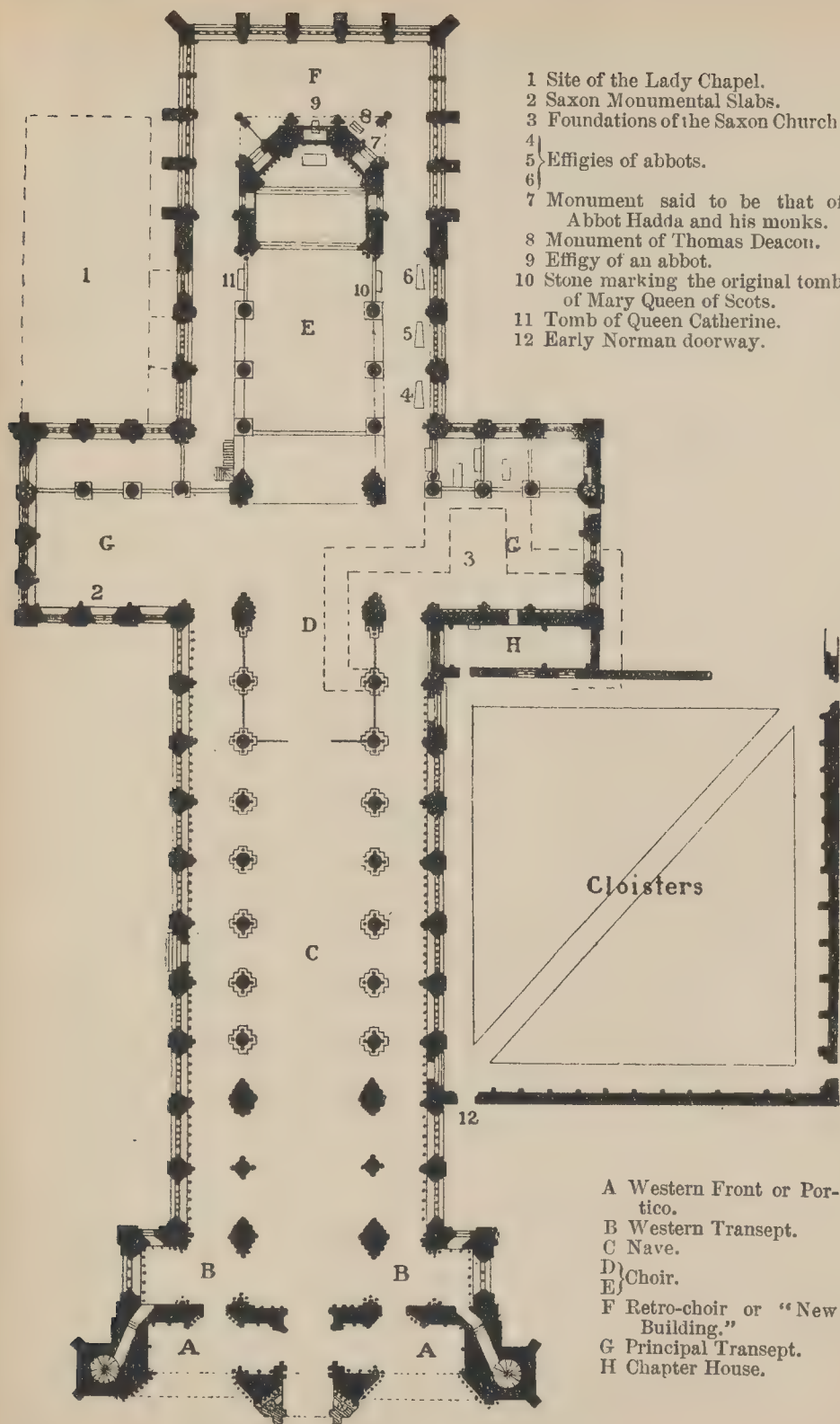
tained one-third in his own hands, assigning 700*l*. to the bishop, and 700*l*. for the maintenance of the new dean and chapter.

The **Town**, or burgh, grew up, as has been said, under the protection of the monastery, and was situated entirely east of the minster, until in 1140, Adam Martin of Bec built a bridge over the Nene, and the better houses were gradually moved westward. The whole formed but one parish until of late years this was divided into four, and new churches were built. The borough, city, and manor are identical. The city returned two members to parliament from the 1st year of Edw. VI. until the redistribution of seats in 1885, since it has only one member.

The chief, if not the sole, objects of interest left in Peterborough are the **CATHEDRAL**, formerly the church of the great monastery; and the remains of the monastic buildings which surround it. These will be described in due order. The great feature of the cathedral is the **Western Front** or **Portico**, with its three great open arches. This is perhaps unique; and has at all events no counterpart in England, although the arches in the W. front of Lincoln may have given the original idea. It has been copied on a smaller scale in some parish churches, as at Snettisham in Norfolk, which again served as a model for the Cathedral of Fredericton in New Brunswick.

Before entering the close, the visitor should place himself in front of the market-house, and remark from that point the view of the W. front, and the W. gateway of the abbey precincts, rising just as they did six hundred years ago above the old “burgh.” This **Western Gateway** was originally the work of Abbot Martin. The Norm. vault of the gateway is groined with plain





PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL. GROUND PLAN.

To face p. 68.





cross-ribs, agreeing exactly with the vaulting of the aisles; and a Norm. arcade remains on either side, one of the arches of which, N. and S., is larger than the rest, and is pierced for a door. The W. front has been faced with Perp. work, and a Perp. story above the gate has taken the place of a chapel of St. Nicholas, which formed part of the design. The window above the arch on the E. side was part of a Perp. shrine, part of which remains in the Cathedral. It is much to be regretted that the two portions should have been separated. As the visitor passes beneath the arch, a most striking view of the W. front of the Cathedral breaks upon the visitor. On the *left* is the chancel of Becket's chapel, founded by Abbot Benedict, and now containing the collection of the Natural History and Archaeological Society. On the *right* is the ancient gateway of the abbot's lodgings, part of it is now the School of Art and Technical School; and in *front*, across an open space of greensward, rise the three great arches of the W. front, or, strictly speaking, the gigantic galilee; for the two piers are entirely detached, and stand several feet in advance of the actual wall of the W. front.

Here it will be desirable to give the dates and architectural character of the principal portions of the Cathedral. They are as follows:—

*Choir and eastern aisles of transept* (1118–1155, Abbots John of Sais, Henry of Anjou, and Martin of Bee): early Norm.

*Transept*, and probably a small portion of the *nave* (1155–1177, Abbot William de Waterville): middle Norm.

*Nave* (1177–1193, Abbots Benedict and Andrew): late Norm.

*Western transept* (1193–1200, Abbot Andrew): Trans.-Norm.

*West front, and remains of the Lady Chapel*: E. E.

*Eastern Chapel or New Building*,

begun 1438, completed 1496–1528 (Abbots Ashton and Kirton): Perpendicular.

From the apse of the choir to the W. front, therefore, the cathedral affords an excellent example of the gradual changes in style from early Norm. to fully developed E. E.; whilst the Perp. work of the "New Building" is of scarcely less value. Peterborough takes a very high, if not the highest place among English cathedrals of the second class; and, as has already been said, it has one unique feature—the grand triple arch of its W. front. The entire church is built of Barnackstone, after the usual fashion of this part of Northamptonshire. (For Barnack and its quarries, see Rte. 3.)

The **Western Porch**, which is of the purest E. E. architecture, dates, in all probability, between the years 1200 and 1232, during which period Archarius, Robert of Lindsey, Alexander Martin Ramsey, and Walter St. Edward were abbots. It is remarkable that neither of the local chroniclers has recorded the building of it, or that of the western transept behind it. The work, however, "seems about coeval with the chapter-house at Lincoln, and the W. porch at Ely, both of which were built shortly after 1200, and have very florid and elaborate details. . . . The fineness of the masonry, and the close-jointing of the deeply-moulded arch stones are unsurpassed by anything of this period in the kingdom," *F. A. Paley*. The front consists of three enormous arches, 81 ft. in height, that in the centre being narrower than the other two. These arches are supported by triangular piers, entirely and boldly detached from the W. wall. They are faced with banded shafts; and beyond these, N. and S. sides, a square turret, surmounted with a spire and pinnacles. The arches them-

selves support gables, much enriched with arcades and niches, and having in each a "wheel" window of very beautiful design. A turret, terminating in a small spire, rises between each gable. The only additions to the original front are the spires and pinnacles which terminate the flanking turrets. These on the S.W. turret are Dec.; and those of the N. turret are later (Perp.). The height from the ground to the top of the S.W. spire is 156 ft.; the width of the W. front is exactly the same. The N.W. spire is not so high. All the details deserve the most careful examination. Capitals, leaf-ornaments of shafts, the enrichments of the windows in the gables, are alike graceful, and admirably finished. In a niche at the top of the central gable is a figure of St. Peter. In the two side niches are St. Paul and St. Andrew; the three saints in whose names the church was dedicated in 1237. The six small figures at the sides of the gable windows are said to be those of Kings of England from the Conquest to the time of erection of the front. In an arcade below are nine figures of Apostles; and in the spandrels of the great arches are saints and ecclesiastics no longer to be identified.

Between the central piers of the front, rising to about half their height, and projecting beyond them, is a parvise, or porch, with an upper chamber, added after 1370. It is much enriched, and is in itself a fine composition; but it injures the uniform effect of the front; and was probably erected as an abutment against this original front, which, by a bulging outwards of the pillars, from a settlement of the foundations, was falling forward toward the west, having, in fact, been overweighted by the addition (Dec.) of stone spires and pinnacles to the flanking towers. The bosses on the vault of the porch should be noticed. The room above

serves as the Chapter Library. The W. wall of the church, within the great arches, is enriched with various arcades. The three portals are unusually fine; and the wooden doors themselves are the original ones, as is shown by the moulding on their interior framework. "As a portico," says *Fergusson*, "using the term in its classical sense, the W. front of Peterborough is the grandest and finest in Europe; though wanting in the accompaniments which would enable it to rival some of the great façades of Continental cathedrals." The effects of light and shade produced by this "majestick front of columel-work," as Fuller calls it, are wonderful.

In 1896, the late J. L. Pearson, R.A., architect to the Cathedral, reported that the gables of the W. front were in danger, and recommended that they should be taken down and rebuilt. A considerable excitement was caused at the time by the proposal, and a particular protest against what was called the destruction of the W. front, was raised by the Society of Antiquarians. It was decided, however, to carry out Mr. Pearson's recommendations, and the N. gable has now been satisfactorily rebuilt, and the S.W. is under like re-construction, each stone being carefully numbered, so as to be replaced in its original position. The centre gable and other portions of the fabric remain to be similarly dealt with under the direction of Mr. F. G. Bodley, A.R.A., who has succeeded the late Mr. Pearson as the architect to the Cathedral.

On entering the cathedral, immediately behind the W. front, is the **Western Transept**; extending across the nave, and projecting one bay beyond the aisle on either side. This transept was an addition to the Norm. nave during the period of the great transition of styles; and, like



the nave itself, was probably the work of Abbot Andrew (1193-1200). The naves of the neighbouring cathedrals of Ely and Lincoln terminate in a similar manner; but the W. transept of Ely is probably earlier (1174-1189), and that of Lincoln later (1209-1220). The vaulting and arch mouldings are of Trans.-Norm. character, and much enriched. Lofty arches, parallel with the nave aisles, support towers, of which, except one stage of the N. tower, no portion above the roofs was completed at the same time as the transepts. In the bays beyond the towers are two long windows N. and S., and two narrower, E., the tracery of which is Perp. They have transomes, with cusped headings to the lower lights—an unusual and early example. The Norm. clerestory windows above are filled with Perp. tracery. Whether the existing W. wall belonged originally to this transept, or to the E. E. west front, is an architectural problem which must be allowed to remain unsolved. An E. E. arcade, pierced for three doorways, runs along it; and above each doorway is a window, with Perp. tracery introduced. A wall passage runs through their jambs.

The bells, which hang in the N.W. tower, are rung from the floor of this transept. The E. E. font, which has been restored, is placed under the great S. window. The view up the nave aisles, with their long perspective of vaulting ribs, is very striking.

The **Nave** is throughout Norm., the work of Abbots *De Waterville*, *Benedict*, and *Andrew* (1155-1193), and a continuation of the choir, which was completed in 1133. Peterborough is one of three Norm. cathedrals, the other two being Ely and Norwich, which are separated by no great distances, and may be advantageously compared.

The earliest is Norwich (1091-1119), the original design of which has been least interfered with, and which still affords the most perfect example of an early Norm. church remaining in England. The nave of Ely, completed in 1174, is nearly contemporary with that of Peterborough, which it greatly resembles. Peterborough, however, retains its Norm. choir and apse; and its ground-plan is only second in interest to that of Norwich. The dimensions of the actual nave exceed those of either Ely or Norwich:—

	PETERBOROUGH.	ELY.	NORWICH.
	Ft.	Ft.	Ft.
Length of nave .	211*	203†	200‡
Width of nave §.	33	30	28
Height . . .	81	72·9	69·6

\* From W. transept to W. piers of central tower.

† From W. transept to octagon.

‡ To choir screen. § Without aisles.

The choir of Norwich, however, is extended into the nave proper, which measures 250 ft. to the central tower; and at Ely, the grandeur of the later additions, the great W. tower and the octagon, produces an effect before which Peterborough loses indefinitely.

The nave, which consists of ten bays, has massive cylindrical piers, with smaller shafts set against them, and well-moulded circular arches. The **Triforium**, which closely resembles that of Ely, has a wide semi-circular arch, with zigzag moulding, embracing two smaller ones divided by a single shaft. The later **Clerestory** above has three semi-circular arches of which that in the centre, higher than the rest, springs from slender shafts, set on the capitals of those below, circumscribed by a pointed hood-moulding.

The earlier portion of the nave seems to have extended as far as the fourth pier from the east, and the tympana of the triforium east-

ward, originally forming part of the choir, are hatched.

A single shaft rises from the floor to the roof between each bay of the nave. These shafts formerly supported the rafters of the painted ceiling. When the arches of the central tower (see *post*) were changed from round to pointed, this remarkable ceiling, which is clearly of the 12th cent., was raised from a flat form to its present shape, which is half octagonal. It is painted in lozenge-shaped divisions, of which the central and alternate lines on each side contain figures, most of which are seated, and represent royal and ecclesiastical personages, intermixed with very curious grotesques. These are in colours. The bordering and smaller lozenges are painted in black and white, with narrow red lines. The painting on the upper part of the walls, between the present position of the ceiling and the Norm. cornice on which it originally rested, is work of the 14th cent., when the arches were altered, and the Norm. ceiling was raised to fit them. In this painting on the walls there are shields of arms of the 14th cent., and its general character is quite distinct from that of the ceiling itself. The original design was evidently intended for a flat, painted ceiling; and although the only other example of such a ceiling known in this country is that at St. Alban's, there is abundant evidence that it was the usual covering of an early Norm. nave; and indeed of any wide central space, whether nave, chancel, or transept. On the Continent there are many examples of flat ceilings of the 12th cent.

In the nave is a *pulpit*, given, in 1873, by the sons of Dr. James, author of a well-known treatise on the 'Collects,' who died in 1868, having been for forty years a Canon of Peterborough. The design is by *E. M. Barry, R.A.*; the materials, red stone from Dumfries, red Mansfield

stone, and marbles from Ireland and from Devonshire. The lower part of the design consists of a large central shaft, with four detached columns at the angles, all of marble. The upper part is square, with the corners cut off; and at the four corners are attached marble columns, flanking figures of the four Evangelists, in red Mansfield stone. The whole is massive, and well in keeping with the heaviness of the Norm. nave.

The vaulting of the **Nave Aisles** is Norm., with bold and massive cross-ribs. An arcade of intersecting arches runs below the windows, which are E. E. insertions. They are unusual in form, flat-arched, of three lights, and have plate tracery. The aisle walls were apparently raised when these windows were inserted. The triforium is now lighted by large Dec. windows (circa 1360), of three lights. It had originally a steep roof, sloping outward.

In the 3rd bay (from the W.) of the S. aisle is the **Abbot's Door**, an E. E. portal opening into what was the ancient cloister, and corresponding with another portal, in the S. cloister walk, which led to the abbot's lodgings.

On the N. side of the great W. door hangs a portrait of *Old Scarlett*, the sexton who interred Catherine of Arragon and Mary Queen of Scots, and who died in 1594, aged 98. The arms above are those of the see of Peterborough. There is a poetical inscription, which partly runs:—

— "You see old Scarlett's picture stand  
on hie,  
But at your feete here doth his body lye.  
Second to none for strength and sturdye  
limm,  
A scarebabe mighty voice, with visage grim.  
He had interd two queenes within this place  
And this townes householders in his lives  
space  
Twice over; but at length his own time  
camec."

The portrait is curious as an ex-



ample of costume; but it is quite out of place here, and moreover is not the original. In the cathedral account books is an entry in 1665, "to the painter for Old Scarlett's picture drawing, £1 10s."; and again, in 1747, "Paid Mr. Clifton for copying Old Scarlett's picture, £2 12s. 6d."

The **Central Tower**, at the intersection of the nave and eastern transept, was originally built by Abbot de Waterville (1155-1177), and formed a lantern of four stages. (The type may remain in the Norm. tower of Castor; see the present Route, *ante*.) It subsequently proved, however, too heavy for the central piers to support; and in order to prevent the fall of the tower (which had actually taken place at Ely and Winchester), it was taken down nearly as far as the crowns of the great arches. The E. and W. arches were altered from semicircular to pointed; the Norm. arches, N. and S., which have chevron mouldings, remain. The pointed hoods inserted above the two round arches mark real arches of construction, devised to remove the weight from the crowns of the latter. The original Norm. pillars and capitals remain, but have been adapted to the new work in a manner which should be noticed. The existing *lantern* is Dec. (circ. 1340), with two lofty windows on each side, filled with Dec. tracery. Graceful vaulting shafts of stone, in groups of three carry the lierne roof, in the central boss of which is the Saviour holding a globe. The wooden vaulting, as well as the lightness of the entire lantern, were no doubt rendered necessary from the mischief which the weight of the Norm. tower had already caused to the S.E. pier, which was much crippled, and had to be bound with iron in 1592. The octagon of lead was removed in 1810.

In 1882 there was evidence that owing to the settlement of the great

pillars the lantern stage of the tower was rapidly becoming in danger of falling; in the following year the tower and the two E. piers were taken down, and the W. piers followed in the next year (1884). Every stone on being removed was carefully numbered so that it could be replaced in its original position. The whole tower and piers were rebuilt and completed in 1886 as before, except that the turrets erected on the tower by Dean Kipling were not replaced.

Near the S.W. pier of the tower there is a trap door, through which access can be obtained to the remains of the **Saxon Church**, discovered during the repairs in 1887.

The view from beneath the central tower, looking westward, should be noticed. The unusual effect of the W. transept, and of the enriched western wall, with its windows, is well seen from this point.

The eastern aisles of both **Transepts** belong, like the choir, to the earliest part of the church, built by Abbots John of Sais, and Martin of Bec (1118-1155). The rest of the transepts is the work of Abbot de Waterville (1155-1177). The arrangement of both transepts is the same. Each consists of three bays. The termination of each, N. and S., is alike; each having three tiers of semicircular-headed windows (the two upper in the lines of the triforium and clerestory), with a wall arcade below the lowest tier. The W. wall of both transepts has the same arrangement of windows, except that the clerestory tier resembles that of the nave, in having a high central light, with a lower arch (forming an arcade passage), on either side. The windows throughout the transepts (except those in the eastern aisles) are filled with Perp. tracery. Modern *stained glass* has been inserted in many win-

dows of the N. transept, and in three of those of the S. It is by different artists, and is consequently by no means so satisfactory, as even inferior glass would be, if designed by the same colourist.

The **Eastern Aisles** are divided from the transepts by massive piers, alternately round and octangular, supporting arches which are slightly stilted. They have plain cushioned capitals. A billet-moulding surrounds each arch, which has a plain rib in the soffite. The triforium above resembles that in the nave, except in having many of the tympana hatched. The clerestory is the same as on the W. side: vaulting shafts rise to the roof between the arches; a chevroned stringcourse runs at the foot of the triforium; a plain moulding above it. The heaviness of the masses, and the style of ornamentation (the billet, chevron, and indented or hatched moulding are alone used), sufficiently indicate the early date of these aisles, which precisely resemble the choir in all their details. "It seems to be one continuous piece of work throughout." The difference between this portion and the rest of the transept will be at once recognised, by comparing the mouldings of the entrance arches of the choir-aisles with those into the nave-aisles opposite.

The *ceilings* of both transepts (repaired in 1887) are of older date than that of the nave, which they resemble except in being plainer. They were painted white and black in medallions. Unlike the nave ceiling, however, these of the transepts remain in their original position, and have never been raised. They may therefore lay claim to a yet higher antiquity.

The eastern aisle of the N. transept is divided from the transept itself by oaken screen work of Perp. date, but of no very high interest. Some stalls and canopies

removed from the choir are placed against the N. wall, among which two E. E. shafts, with gilt capitals, should especially be noticed. The E. wall below the windows is hung with tapestry of the early 16th cent. They were purchased at Lynn in 1702, representing the delivery of St. Peter from prison, and the healing of the lame man at the gate of the Temple. The windows of this aisle are filled with Perp. tracery,—except the nearest to the choir, which is geometrical. A Norm. portal in the N. wall opens to a staircase leading to the roof. The two closed arches in the northern and central bays of the transept on the E. side, formed the entrance to a very beautiful Lady Chapel of the E. E. period (1274), which was demolished, for the sake of the materials, in order to repair the great damage which the Cathedral had received from Cromwell's troopers. The position of this Lady Chapel resembled that of the Lady Chapel at Ely.

Below the level of the floor, and protected by wooden doors, are some richly carved Saxon coffin lids, discovered in 1888, in their original position in the Saxon churchyard.

The E. side of the S. transept is lighted by three E. E. windows, the tracery in the heads of the same period as the Lady Chapel, consisting of foliated circles only. This aisle was divided into three chapels, dedicated to St. Oswald, St. Benedict, and St. Kyneburgha, by stone partitions of the same date as the aisle itself, one of which has an intersecting Norm. arcade. Brackets on each side of the altars remain in the E. wall. Similar divisions for chapels of E. E. date exist in the transepts of Lincoln Cathedral.

A Dec. doorway in the W. wall of this transept opens to a small building of Trans.-Norm. character, now used partly as a music school, and partly as the Chapter-house. It was



anciently known as the "Chapel of the Ostrie," a corruption probably of "hostelry" or guest-house.

The Cathedral suffers throughout from the want of stained glass. It was richly furnished in this respect, and retained the greater part of its ancient fittings until long after the Reformation; but in 1643 Peterborough was visited by Cromwell, on his way to besiege Crowland; and it is probable that no English Cathedral was more completely "set to rights," or underwent more wanton destruction at the hands of the Parliamentarian troopers. In spite of special orders "to do no injury to the church," they broke open its doors, and proceeded to shatter the windows, to pull down the fittings of the choir, to destroy the organ and the monuments, including those of the two Queens, Catherine and Mary; and to break in pieces the superb reredos of carved stone, painted, gilt, and inlaid with plates of silver. The narrative in the 'Mercurius Rusticus' asserts that "one of the soldiers having charged his musket to shatter down the four Evangelists, in the roof, above the Communion Table, by the rebound of his own shot was struck blind." The cloisters were then pulled completely down (the windows had been filled with stained glass of unusual beauty); and many of the charters and evidences belonging to the Cathedral were burnt or destroyed. The soldiers appropriated such rich church vestments as they could find; and until their departure they were daily exercised by their officers in the nave of the Cathedral.

The Choir, as far as the apse, is of four bays. The arrangement and details of triforium and clerestory precisely resemble those of the eastern transept aisles, except that the eastern piers which alternate with the round ones are twelve sided instead of octangular. The

choir is the recorded work of Abbot John of Sais (1118-1125), who was succeeded by Abbot Henry of Anjou (1127-1133), who, living, according to the Saxon Chronicle, "like a drone in a hive," did nothing for it. It is probable that little more than the foundations were by John of Sais. It was completed by Abbot Martin of Bee (1133-1155).

The Apse, or eastern end of the choir, notwithstanding the changes which have been made in order to connect it with the "New Building" beyond, remains a very fine example of a Norm. termination. It should be compared with the slightly earlier apse of Norwich (the work of Herbert Losinga, d. 1119). A Norm. arch, of which only the pillars remain, originally divided the apse from the choir. The three central windows of the lowest tier were filled with Perp. tracery of the same date as the New Building, into which they look; portions of the roof and the stained window at the E. end being visible through them. The two side windows of this tier are built up; but the Dec. tracery which remains in them proves that this tier of windows had been altered before undergoing a second change, on the erection of the New Building. The triforium windows in the second tier, while they retain their circular headings, are, like the clerestory windows above them, filled with Dec. tracery of the same date, and no doubt inserted at the same time. An intersecting Norm. arcade is seen below the range of the triforium windows, at the back of the wall passage in which they are set. All these windows are filled with stained glass, most of which is modern and bad; that in the two central lights, however, consists of ancient fragments collected from different parts of the church in 1766. Norm. pilasters run up between the windows. The

slight depression in the arches of the three central openings in each tier should be noticed.

The flat roof of the apse, like the eastern screen, was decorated from the designs of *Sir G. G. Scott, R.A.* In the centre is the Saviour in Majesty; surrounding Him, in medallions placed among the branches of a vine which clusters over the pale-blue ground of the ceiling, are half figures of the Apostles. The whole is bordered by an inscription: "I am the Vine, ye are the branches."

The roof of the choir dates apparently from the close of the 15th cent. It is of wood, with pendant bosses. The whole has been coloured, the bosses gilt, and medallions containing angels painted between the groining ribs.

Ælfric (d. 1051) and Kinsi (d. 1060), Archbps. of York, were buried on the N. side of the choir. The latter had been a monk of Peterborough.

The only ancient object in the choir is the brass lectern; the disappearance of all the ancient furniture is due to the havoc caused during the Cromwellian period. Since the restoration of the fabric many gifts have been made for the embellishment of the choir. The mosaic pavement, the Bishop's throne, and the choir pulpit were all gifts by the late Dean Argles. The baldachino was the gift of eight surviving children of Dean Saunders. The choir stalls, forty-four in all, were presented by Archbp. Magee, Lady Elizabeth Villiers, the Freemasons of England, and others. The organ was from an anonymous donor, and the wrought iron screens were erected as a memorial to Dean Argles, whose monument was the pulpit. During the last sixteen years nearly 44,000*l.* have been expended on the fabric, besides about 28,500*l.* on the fittings of the choir.

The **South Choir Aisle** is of the same date as the choir itself. The windows are early geometrical, of the same date and character as those in the nave. An intersecting Norm. arcade, plainly moulded, lines the wall beneath them. (It may here be remarked that, among the differences to be noted between the choir and the transepts, is the distinction of their wall arcades; that of the choir aisles being double and intersected, that of the transepts single.) The vaulting is the same as that of the eastern transept aisles.

At the W. end of the S. choir aisle, under a heavy Norm. arch enriched with billet moulding, is an effigy attributed to Abbot Andrew (1193–1200). He treads on a dragon, the mouth of which is pierced by his staff; in his left hand he holds a book (usually placed in the hands of Benedictine Abbots, and supposed to represent the statutes of their order). On the wall above the effigy are the lines:

"Hos tres Abbates quibus est prior Abba  
Johannes,  
Alter Martinus, Andreas ultimus, unus  
Hic claudit tumulus. Pro clausis ergo  
rogemus."

Three more effigies of early abbots, said to have been brought from the Chapter-house, are placed under the S. wall of this aisle. All hold the book of statutes. The two easternmost (the lowest of which is a good example) are of early Dec. character. Another much shattered effigy is placed under the wall of the choir.

There is also a white marble monument with an effigy of Archbp. Magee (d. 1891) in his robes. He lies buried in the cathedral yard, and a massive cross marks the spot.

A plain marble slab, on the S. aisle of the choir, marks the place where the remains of **Mary, Queen of Scots**, rested until their removal to Westminster. The execution of the



Queen took place on Feb. 8, 1586; but it was not until July 30, 1587, that her body was brought from Fotheringhay to Peterborough for interment. It was conveyed by torchlight, in a "chariot" covered with black cloth, and was met at the entrance of the Cathedral by Bp. Howland, who conducted it in solemn procession to the vault prepared for it, in which it was immediately laid. On the following day a funeral service was performed, the Countess of Bedford assisting as chief mourner. The Bp. of Lincoln preached; and the heralds broke their staves, and cast them into the vault. Twenty-five years afterwards the body, at the order of King James I. (whose autograph letter remains in the possession of the Dean and Chapter—a photograph of this letter hangs on a pillar adjacent to the tomb), was removed to Westminster, under the care of the Bp. of Coventry and Lichfield, and was interred where it now lies, Oct. 11, 1612. A lofty "herse," hung with black velvet, was erected over Queen Mary's resting-place at Peterborough, and was removed, with the body, to Westminster. John Chambers, the last Abbot and first Bishop of Peterborough, was interred in this aisle, near the grave of Queen Mary.

The extreme eastern bay of this and of the opposite aisle are E. E., and have slender vaulting shafts, with a leafed boss in the centre of the roof. In their S. walls are good double piscinæ. The two bays thus formed chapels at the ends of the choir aisles.

The so-called **New Building**, which now forms the eastern end of the Cathedral, was begun by Abbot Ashton in 1438, but not finished until the time of Abbot Kirton (1496-1528). It is entered from the choir aisle, through an arch with square ornaments, characteristic of

Perp. work, in the hollow of the moulding. The Tudor rose, the pomegranate of Catherine of Arragon, the fleur-de-lys, the rebus of Abbot Kirton (a "kirk" on a tun) and some armorial bearings, appear among these ornaments. The New Building itself,—the view across which, beyond the arch, is a fine one—is a long parallelogram of five bays, and forms in effect a third transept, extending across the eastern end of the church. A similar eastern transept existed at Fountains Abbey, and still remains at Durham, where the "Chapel of the Nine Altars," as it is called, was the work of Bp. Poore (1228-1241). The want of shrine room for the display of relics, in which Peterborough was especially rich, was no doubt the cause which led to the erection of this transept, which in almost all its details—groined roof, windows, exterior battlement, and buttresses—so closely resembles King's College Chapel at Cambridge, that, it has been suggested, "the same master-mind would seem to have conceived both." (The two buildings were advancing at the same time; and, as at Peterborough, the work at King's College was stopped for some time after its commencement. It was not finished until 1532.) The beautiful fan-tracery of the roof should especially be noticed. The arms on the bosses are those of England, Edward the Confessor, and Peterborough. The ancient stained glass, which once filled all the windows, has disappeared. The central window now contains glass by *Heaton and Butler* (the subjects are the Last Supper, and the Baptism of Our Lord), placed in 1875 as a memorial of Bp. Davys, "*Illustriss. Reginae Victoriae Præceptoris*" (d. 1864). At the S. end is a memorial window for Dean Butler (d. 1853).

The manner in which the Norm. choir apse is squared, so as to adapt

it to the New Building, should be remarked. The Norm. shaft and Norm. wall of the apse remain; and at the side of the entrance arches these shafts are fitted with Perp. capitals. Portions of the Norm. string-course, much weather-worn (for it must be remembered that before the erection of the New Building the apse was unenclosed), may also be observed—as well as the Dec. tracery still remaining in the closed windows, N. and S. “The body of the aperture in the three easternmost is left open, and continued down to the ground in the form of lofty archways, though the lower parts are now blocked by the modern altar screen, as they were formerly by steps leading from the back of the high altar. The marks of these steps may yet be seen in the S.E. archway, within the chapel, as well as the hinges of folding doors, by which the retro-choir, or space behind the high-altar, was enclosed.”—*Paley*.

In the eastern chapel is a small monument of considerable interest. It is supposed to be the stone erected by Godric, Abbot of Crowland, over the monks of Medeshamstede (the ancient name of Peterborough), who, with their Abbot Hedda, were slaughtered by the Danes in 870. But the story of Godric's care in this matter, and the description of the monument which he raised, rest solely on the spurious narrative of Ingulf. It is a mass of Barnack stone, full of minute shells. Large holes have been bored in it, three on one side and two on the other, probably for the purpose of fixing candlesticks. On either of the upright sides are six much worn figures, the details of which it is very difficult to distinguish. All have the nimbus—a plain circular beading, except in the case of one of the figures on the E. side, which has the cruciform nimbus distinctive of our Lord. The hair of a figure

on the W. side is arranged in rays or semicircles. The dress of all is alike—a long robe, with a shorter sleeved vestment over it. The emblems they carry seem to vary; most have books; some bear palm-branches. All are under a circular arcade, with a kind of double-leaf ornament springing from the intersections. The sloping top of the stone is divided into four partitions, with rude sculpture of leafage and birds, one of which may perhaps represent a peacock, a favourite emblem of the Resurrection. Circles and knots of intersected lines mark the early character of the whole work. The two ends are plain, except that on the S. side the date 870 has been carved in modern Arabic numerals. Whatever this monument may really be, it deserves the most careful attention. The figures in all probability represent the Saviour and His charge to Peter.

On the adjoining wall is the monument of Thomas Deacon (d. 1721), founder of a charity school at Peterborough, and in many other ways a benefactor to the city. The shattered monument W. of this one, was erected during his own lifetime by Sir Humphry Orm, for himself and his family. Before Sir Humphry's death his monument was reduced by Cromwell's troopers to its present condition. The effigy of Abbot Chambers is placed in the recess behind the altar; and on the adjoining wall are the monuments of Bp. Cumberland (d. 1718), author of a volume ‘*De Legibus Naturæ disquisitio Philosophica*,’ in refutation of Hobbes, to which reference is made in the inscription; and of Bp. White Kennett (d. 1728), whose ‘*Parochial Antiquities*’ and ‘*Hist. of England*’ are still remembered. Against the lower wall of the apse is a monument formed of fragments of various dates, which seem to have been arranged at a very late period,



as a memorial of some unknown person. The Perp. portions belong to a shrine which contained relics of St. Ebba, the most important part of which now serves as a window in the gatehouse. St. Ebba was the instructress of St. Etheldreda of Ely, and the sister of Oswald of Northumbria, whose arm was one of the greatest treasures of Peterborough.

The **North Choir Aisle** precisely resembles the S.; the first bay being E. E. as in that. At its eastern end a very plain marble tablet commemorates Bp. Jeune (1864-1868), and there is another said to have been carved by Grinling Gibbons. One of the original Norm. window openings has been preserved in this aisle, filled, however, with Perp. tracery, and with modern stained glass. It overlooks a slab of blue stone, close to the N. choir door, beneath which still rest the remains of Queen Catherine of Arragon, the humble grave of one to whose existence, though it may be but incidentally, this nation owes the greatest change that ever was brought about in it, and upon the accident of whose burial here depended the preservation of this fine Abbey church, and its conversion into a Cathedral. There is no monument in England that can fairly be called more deeply interesting than this one, though few indeed of those who daily trample on it, and are fast obliterating the simple words, "Queen Catherine, A.D. 1536," appear to entertain a thought about it. Not one in five hundred recalls her dying words in Shakespeare's King Henry VIII.

"When I am dead  
Let me be used with honour; strew me o'er  
With maiden flowers, that all the world may  
know  
I was a chaste wife to my grave; embalm  
me,  
Then lay me forth; although unqueened,  
yet still  
A queen, and daughter to a king, inter me."

Many banners, with heraldic devices and royal achievements, hung above this tomb; and a lofty herse, covered with a black velvet pall, marked with a cross of silver tissue, and enriched on the sides with the arms and badges of Arragon, remained on it until the destruction wrought by Cromwell's soldiers. Queen Catherine, the closing scene of whose life it is scarcely possible to imagine otherwise than as Shakespeare has painted it, died at Kimbolton Castle in Huntingdonshire, Jan. 8th, 1535, and was interred in this aisle with much of the state befitting "a queen and daughter to a king."

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"We have now gradually built up what may well be called a noble minster; and a glance at the plan thus completed will show a Latin cross, the feet resting on two steps, and the head terminating originally in an apse, to which however a transept yet farther east has been added. Here then we have a cross of that form which is commonly found in old representations of the Rood, where the figure of the crucified is attended by the blessed Virgin and the beloved disciple, kneeling one on either side, on a step at the foot of the cross; while the inscription over the head appears on a scroll crossing the upper part of the tree . . . We have then, in the ground-plan of Peterborough, the highest and most completely developed symbolism of the doctrine of the cross, of which a Christian church is capable."—*G. Ayliffe Poole.*

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Passing out of the Cathedral, one enters the churchyard on the N. side, the gateway into which has, close adjoining it, a battlemented arch of entrance to the Deanery (formerly the old Prior's house), built by Abbot Kirton, who com-

pleted the new building. The same arms and emblems appear on it as on the bosses and emblems of his work in the Cathedral. His rebus, a kirk on a tun, is placed over the smaller door. The quiet beauty of the churchyard, well kept and judiciously planted, will at once attract the visitor. An excellent view of the exterior of the Cathedral is obtained from it; the best general point being toward the N.E. angle, where the rich Perp. chapel, the Norm. apse towering above it, and the many lines of towers and spires group most picturesquely, and are well contrasted by the surrounding foliage. The group formed by the N.W. transept, with its tower and gable, and the N. spire of the W. front, should be noticed soon after entering the churchyard. The transept gables are E. E. of the same date and character as the W. front, and of great beauty. The first stage of the N. transept-tower above the roof is Trans.-Norm. of the same date as the transept: the upper stage and pinnacles are E. E., but of considerably later date than the W. front.

The windows of the nave aisles (late E. E.), triforium (Dec.), and clerestory (Perp.) may here be well observed. Flat, pilaster-like buttresses run up between each bay (Norm.) as high as the string-course above the aisle windows and Dec. above. The upper part may have been added when the aisle walls were raised. The Norm. arcade above the aisle windows marks the height of the old wall, from which the roof sloped steeply backward. The parapet above the clerestory is a late Dec. addition. The N. front of the main transept deserves notice, since it contains the original Norm. window openings filled with Perp. tracery. On the eastern side, the door once leading into the destroyed Lady Chapel remains; and some arches which lined what formed its S. wall may be traced under the single

Norm. window remaining in the N. choir aisle.

The exterior of the eastern apse is much enriched, and very striking. Buttressed turrets, capped with spires, rise at its junction with the choir. An intersecting arcade passes round below the upper tier of windows; and in the parapet above, which is an addition of the early Dec. period, are circular medallions, enclosing trefoils, from which half emerge figures of kings and ecclesiastics. The manner in which the Norm. windows were enlarged and altered is well seen here.

The New Building has very massive plain buttresses between each bay, on each of which is placed the sitting figure of an Apostle. A rich and graceful parapet fills the space between. This has suffered much from time and decay; but the initials (R. A., Richard Ashton, and R. K., Robert Kirton) and devices (an ash-tree on a tun, and a kirk on a tun) of the builders may still be traced on it and on the buttresses. On the parapet are also the alternate monograms I. H. C. and M. (Jesus and Mary); and the string-course over the E. window has the name Karton (Kirton). On that of a window on the S. side it is spelt backwards (Notrak).

The central tower, as has already been said, dates about 1340. It has two windows on each side, with a blind arcade of rich tracery between and beyond them. At the angles are octagonal turrets. The tower was originally surmounted by a wooden octagon "which perhaps bore, or was intended to bear, a timber spire, covered with lead." The octagon was removed by Dr. Kipling (who became Dean of Peterborough in 1798). The turrets, which rise above the tower, were added at this time, and were evidently imitated from those (Norm. with a Perp. battlement) at the ends of the great transept.



Of the **Monastic Buildings** there are numerous relics, in spite of great and wanton destruction. The great cloister extended as usual on the S. side of the nave, and was destroyed after 1643. The inner walls of the S.E. and W. walks remain, and show that the original Norm. cloister was perhaps extended and certainly altered in the 14th and 15th cents. At the extreme W. end of the S. walk is a very rich Trans.-Norm. (almost E. E.) portal, having an inner round-headed arch with raised foliage. The outer arch, finely and elaborately moulded, is pointed; and in the tympanum between the two arches is a quatrefoil, with dragons among foliage in the spandrels. The side shafts are detached, with dog-tooth between them. This portal opened to the abbot's house (now the bishop's palace), and is placed immediately opposite the "abbot's door," in the nave of the Cathedral. In the wall E. of this portal is a series of five recesses, the backs of three of which are enriched. These were lavatories. Eastward again the walk has a rich E. E. wall arcade; portions of which are crossed by the arches of a later vaulting (late Perp.). At the E. end is a portal resembling the abbot's, but less rich, which opened to a long vaulted passage. In the E. walk, portions of the vaulting arches remain against the transept; and on the N. wall are some rich E. E. brackets once carrying vaulting. These may have been either in a slype or passage, or in the Chapter-house. The W. walk also shows the remains of vaulting arches, and traces of four portals, now closed, one of which (near the N. end) probably opened to the refectory. A Norm. arch (open), with billet moulding, here gives admission to the cloister, and is carried between the W. walk and the church.

A long arched passage (late Dec.) led from the E. end of the S. walk  
[Northamptonshire.]

to the outer wall of the close. Opening from this passage, eastward, are the remains of the infirmary, built by Abbot John de Caux (de Caletto, 1248-1261). It is of seven bays, three arches standing open, while the rest are walled up in a house. Clustered piers and mouldings are good and graceful. Grotesques, foliage, and small heads are well sculptured. On the S. side are some remains of the chapel of the infirmary, dedicated to St. Lawrence. From the end of the long passage the situation of the monastery, on ground rising gently from the back of the Nene, is well seen. The upper part of the city (where is the G. N. Stat.) is still higher.

Portions of the *refectory* remain in the walls of one of the bishop's gardens. The *Archdeacon's house* is partly composed from a hall (a guest hall?) of the 13th cent. The interior is divided by modern partitions, the wall separating the hall from the kitchen or buttery remains, and is pierced by two round-headed arches.

Returning to the Close, before the W. front, the **Abbot's Gateway**, on the S. side, leading to what was once the abbot's house and is now the episcopal palace, should be especially noticed. The abbot obtained a licence to crenellate a gatehouse and two chambers between it and the church in 2nd Edw. II., A.D. 1319; and his work may fairly be identified with this building. It is of early Dec. character, with a groined roof springing from clustered shafts. An arcade lines its interior walls. At the angles are square turrets, in each of which is a niche containing a figure; a third figure is placed in the gable. The arrangement on either side of this gateway is the same. The statues on the N. side are those of Edw. II., Abbot Godfrey of Crowland, and the Prior of Peterborough, wearing

the Benedictine habit. On the S. side are St. Peter, St. Paul, and St. Andrew, the three saints to whom the church was at first dedicated. Above the gateway is a room called the Knights' Chamber, in which guests of distinguished rank were lodged. The windows of this room, replacing bay windows, are of later period.

N. of the main gateway which leads into the Close, is the chancel of a chapel of St. Thomas of Canterbury, originally founded by Abbots de Waterville and Benedict,—the latter of whom had been a monk of Canterbury at the time of Becket's murder, of which he wrote a narrative. (He brought to Peterborough, after he became abbot, the flagstones on which Becket had fallen, with which he constructed an altar; besides other Becket relics.) The chancel, now serving as the Museum of the Natural History and Archæological Society, is very late Dec. or rather early Perp. The beautiful tracery of the E. window deserves notice, as does the pierced cross on the gable above it.

On the N. side of the Cathedral is a singular earthen mound, known as the "Toot hill" (*totten*, A.-S. = to project), said to have been the site of a tower built by Turolf, the first Norm. abbot, for the defence of his monastery. It is possible that it was the mound of a tower; but it has also been conjectured that it was formed by the earth thrown up in digging a moat round the precincts, or more probably it was a calvary.

There was anciently but one parish of Peterborough, and it is only of late years that this has been divided into four. The old parish Church (dedicated to St. John the Baptist) stood at first E. of the Cathedral; but was rebuilt on its present site between 1401-1407. The abbey

gave toward the work the nave of St. Thomas's chapel—the chancel remaining (see *ante*). The church is therefore Perp., of fine proportions, with very wide chancel arch; but it is much injured by pews and a flat ceiling, and is of no very high interest. There is some curious embroidery (portions of vestments or altar frontals worked into a cushion) in the vestry. The S. porch, with a groined roof of stone, and chamber above, and the W. tower, are the best portions of the building. The churches of the remaining three parishes are *Longthorpe* (see *infra*); *St. Mark's* (*Ellis*, archit.), built 1856; and *St. Mary's* (*Christian*, archit.), built 1856. These are of no great importance. Opposite St. Mark's was a large monastic barn of the 13th cent., now destroyed. The Church of St. Paul was built in 1869 in the railway hamlet of "New England."

The *Grammar School*, formerly in the chancel of Becket's chapel, was removed in 1855 to the new buildings in Park road.

*St. Peter's Training College* for schoolmasters, intended for the supply of the dioceses of Peterborough, Ely, and Lincoln, is a large brick building, completed 1864, from the designs of *Sir G. G. Scott, R.A.*

The *Carr Dyke*, on the inland side of the Fens, running from the Nene to the Witham, began at Peterborough, and was probably a Roman work. It may be well seen at Newark,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.E. of the city, and was about 60 ft. wide with a broad flat bank on each side. "A more judicious and well laid out work," said the engineer Rennie, "I have never seen." It was calculated to receive all the highland and flowing waters, preventing them from flooding the lower grounds, and was thus of the nature of an intercepting, or "catchwater" drain.



*Excursions from Peterborough.*—A day's excursion may be easily made to *Huntingdon*, or *St. Neot's*, by G. N. Rly. (see *H.Bk. for Huntingdonshire*). *Stamford* and *Burghley House* (see Rte. 3) may also be visited from Peterborough. The churches of *Castor* (see the present Route, *ante*) and *Barnack* (Rte. 3) may be seen on the same day. Peterborough is also the best place from which to visit *Northborough* (see Rte. 3), where Cromwell's wife and favourite daughter are buried, and *Crowland* (see *H.Bk. for Lincolnshire*).

On the *Castor* road, 1 m. W., is *Thorpe Hall* (C. I. Strong, Esq.), a charming example—house, stables, and formal garden with walls and gateways—of that phase of architecture which leads from Jacobean to the fully developed Renaissance of Wren. It was designed by Webb, son-in-law of Inigo Jones. Further on is the hamlet of *Longthorpe*, with an E. E. chapel dating throughout 1262–73, very simple but effective. It was the ancient chapel of *St. Botolph*. In this parish, which is really a suburb on the W. of Peterborough, is a fortified house of the same date as the chapel, which was the summer residence of the abbot. It was square, with corner towers, one of which remains. The lower story is vaulted. The windows have shouldered heads. The pyramidal roof is modern.

**Milton Park** (G. C. W. Fitzwilliam, Esq.), about  $2\frac{1}{4}$  m. W. of Peterborough, is generally open to pedestrians, and affords the pleasantest scenery in the immediate neighbourhood of the city. It is of some extent, and well wooded, although the ground is nowhere very much varied. Milton has been the seat, from an early period, of a branch of the Yorkshire Fitzwilliams, one of

whom, Sir William Fitzwilliam, was attached to the household of Wolsey, and received the fallen cardinal here, when on his way to his death-bed in Leicester Abbey. A tree under which Wolsey rested is still shown in the park. The house was nearly rebuilt by the same Fitzwilliam, and contains portions dating from the first quarter of the 16th cent. Another Sir William Fitzwilliam was the gentle guardian of Queen Mary at Fotheringhay; and she gave him, on the morning of her execution, a portrait of James I., as a boy, which hung in her bed-chamber. This picture is now at Milton.

Here are the kennels of the Fitzwilliam Hounds.

#### *The Route by Road.*

Leaving Northampton the road proceeds in a N.E. direction, passing the villages of *Weston Favell* ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  m.), *Great Billing* (4 m.), *Elton* (5 m.), near *Earls Barton*, and *Wilby* (8 m.) to ★ *Wellingborough* (10 m.). From here it proceeds close to *Finedon* ( $13\frac{1}{2}$  m.), where it joins the *Higham Ferrers* and *Kettering* road. Near *Twywell* ( $18\frac{1}{2}$  m.) the road crosses the *Kettering* and *Huntingdon* Rly. and continues to *Thrapston* ( $20\frac{3}{4}$  m.). Thence it follows the valley of the *Nene* through *Thorpe Waterville* ( $23\frac{1}{2}$  m.), *Barnwell St. Andrew* ( $26\frac{1}{2}$  m.) to ★ *Oundle* ( $28\frac{1}{2}$  m.). At *Elton* ( $33\frac{1}{2}$  m.) the road enters *Huntingdonshire* and proceeds down a long hill to *Chesterton* ( $35\frac{3}{4}$  m.) and *Alwalton* (see *H.Bk. for Hunts*), where it crosses the *Great North Road* and thence to ★ *Peterborough* ( $41\frac{1}{4}$  m.).

## ROUTE 3.

## PETERBOROUGH TO STAMFORD.

(MIDLAND RAILWAY. 12 $\frac{3}{4}$  m.)

Rail.	Stations.
	Peterborough.
3 m.	Walton.
6 $\frac{1}{4}$ m.	Helpston.
10 m.	Uffington and Barnack.
12 $\frac{3}{4}$ m.	STAMFORD.

Leaving Peterborough from the G. E. Rly. Stat., and passing the joint Stat. of the G. N. and Midland Rlys., the Midland line proceeds for some distance parallel to the G. N. Rly., which runs on the rt.

At New England a joint line of these two Rlys. branches off E. to Wisbech, having a station at **Eye Green**. The village of **Eye**, with a modern church, lies to the S. The branch line soon afterwards quits the county and reaches Thorney, noted for a Benedictine abbey which was there (see *H.Bk. for Cambridgeshire*).

**3 m. Walton (Stat.).** A hamlet in the parish of **Paston**. The Church of All Saints at Paston lies  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. rt. The nave, chancel and adjoining N. aisle, are Perp. The sedilia are E. E., and also the W. tower, on which is set a very graceful broach spire of about 1320. The stair-turret, with its pointed roof, is a striking addition to the whole composition.

The little Church of **Werrington**, 1 m. N., has Norm., E. E., and Dec. portions. That at **Marholm**, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  m. W. of the Walton Stat. (St. Mary's holme—the church is dedicated to her), is more important. The low tower is chiefly Norm.; the nave,

arches, and the chancel arch date from about 1300. The chancel was rebuilt at the cost of Sir William Fitzwilliam, of Milton (1524–1534). There are some remains of stained glass in the chancel, besides portions of achievements and armour belonging to the Fitzwilliams, for whom also there are some monuments. (1) *Brasses* of Sir William Fitzwilliam (d. 1534) and wife, in heraldic dresses. He was the re-builder of the chancel, and had been one of the retainers of Wolsey, whom he received at Milton (see Rte. 2, *Milton*). The canopy is carried on twisted iron bars and stone spiral shafts. (2) An altar-tomb, with coloured effigies of another Sir W. Fitzwilliam, "Lord-Lieutenant of ye Kingdom of Ireland," and wife (date 1529). He is in armour. (3) A small marble pillar for a son of Lady Fitzwilliam, 1646. The inscription runs:

"Grassante bello civili

To the courteous soldier.

Noe crucifixe you see, noe Frightful Brand,  
Of superstition's here. Pray let mee stand."

(4) Full-length standing effigies of Earl Fitzwilliam, 1719, and his wife Anna, 1727; "Jacob. Fisher de Camberwell fecit" The church was restored in 1868.

[Shortly after leaving Walton Stat. the Spalding and Boston section of the G. N. Rly. branches off N.E., having a Stat. at **Peakirk** (6 m. from Peterborough) on the borders of the fens. Peakirk is the church of St. Pega, the sister



of St. Guthlac of Crowland, who founded a cell here about the year 716, whilst her brother retired to a yet more desolate stronghold among the marshes. The district was soon attached to the great monastery of Peterborough, but there was an attempt to make it a distinct religious house, and it was not without recourse to the king's court that Peterborough recovered the rights which had been assailed. The *Church* of St. Pega is interesting. The nave is of three bays, with a Norm. round-arched arcade N., and an E. arcade with pointed arches, S. The clerestory windows are lancets with trefoils. The lofty pointed chancel arch is Transitional, and therefore earlier than the S. arcade. The chancel is Perp., with large windows. There is a N. chantry, with a broad Perp. window, containing some fragments of stained glass, which belongs to the owner of the "Hermitage," mentioned below. Lancets remain in the nave aisles, and in the S. aisle there are Dec. windows of three lights. The interior door of the S. porch is good Norm. N. of the E. window, and on a level with its base, is a curious quatrefoiled opening, which, it has been conjectured, may have served for the occasional exhibition of a relic. There was a venerated figure of St. Pega; and Robert Angell leaves by will, in 1566, "unto the repairinge of St. Pees image, ii strike of barley and xx<sup>d</sup> in money." In the vestry is the stem of a Dec. lantern, worth notice. The church has been restored, new fittings introduced, and all the windows filled with modern stained glass. A short distance E. of the church is a small desecrated chapel, called the "Hermitage." Some years ago it was purchased and restored by Francis James, Esq., of Edgeworth Manor, Gloucestershire. It dates from about 1270. St. Pega, it may be added, after the death of

her brother, went to Rome, where she died, and was buried in a church, named, like this, in honour of her.

From Peakirk the pedestrian will follow the raised road along the river. He will find himself in a perfectly level district, with clumps and lines of trees on the low horizon, marking the sites of farms and villages; deep reed-beds by the river, which constantly overflows its banks; drains, banks, and droves (as the roads are called) on all sides, the usual accompaniments of the fens; whilst, if the day be favourable, the changing lights, the cries of wild birds which haunt the fens, and a certain feeling of space and freedom in spite of (or it may be owing to) the uniform level, "rounded about by the low wavering sky," give interest even to this Dutch-like country, especially if the thoughts of the traveller be filled with the ancient glories of **Crowland**. Long before he is within reach of the abbey, the great tower is seen across the plain, gleaming among its trees; whilst the village shows a long line of houses, barns, and hayricks, hardly raised above the level of the marsh. Crowland is, however, one of the many "islands" which even before the days of draining existed in the fens. The "Wash," which extends from Peakirk to Spalding, is the receptacle of all the overflowing waters of the Welland. That district is constantly flooded; but the works of the Bedford Level have drained completely the other side of Crowland, so that at present there is hardly sufficient water for the pastures. The place is no longer an island, and the corn land is as secure as elsewhere. In monastic days these crops were very uncertain, and the "bread corn" of the monks came from remote possessions. The country was then an enormous marsh, abounding in fish

and wild fowl—"a wildeiness of shallow waters and reedy islets." For description of Crowland, see *H.Bk. for Lincolnshire*.

2 m. E. of Peakirk is **Newborough**, bounded on the S. side by the "Carr Dyke," with a modern church dedicated to St. Bartholomew.]

**6½ m. Helpston (Stat.).** The market-town of *Market Deeping* (see *H.Bk. for Lincolnshire*—it is just across the border) is distant 4 m. The village of Helpston lies ½ m. 1 of the Stat. The *Church of St. Botolph* is of some interest, E. E. and Dec., but much altered. There is a good Dec. window at the E. end of the S. aisle; and the square tower, which dies into an octagon, is surmounted by a low spire. This tower has been entirely rebuilt with the old materials, but is said to be "rigorously identical" with the former. It is Norm. below, and above of the 14th cent. In the N. aisle is the matrix of a *brass* for Roger de Hingham, who died between 1297–1310. In pulling down the tower, it was found that the foundations were Saxon, with long-and-short work. Some early headstones also were found. A cross, raised on steps, probably of the same date as the upper part of the tower, stands in the village; and near it is a monument, erected in 1869, as a memorial of John Clare, the "peasant-poet" of Northamptonshire, born here in 1793, of parents then receiving parish relief. He died, 1864, in the Lunatic Asylum at Northampton, where he had been placed for some years (*A 'Life of Clare,'* by F. Martin, was published by Macmillan in 1865.) There are large mills at Helpston for the manufacture of air-dried brown paper.

An interesting excursion may be made from this Stat. to Woodcroft Castle and to the manor-house and

church of Northborough—a round (returning to the Stat.) of about 6 m. The village of **Etton**, in which parish Woodcroft stands, is about 1¼ m. N. of Helpston Stat. **Woodcroft Castle** is between the Stat. and the village, and should be first visited. Although called a castle, it is in fact a good example of a manor-house of the time of Edward I., and was hardly designed for a place of strength. Hubert and Roger of Woodcroft held property here in the reigns of Edward I. and II., and a certain Lawrence of Preston also held part of a knight's fee at Woodcroft, under the abbot of Peterborough, at the same period. To one of these persons the house may be assigned. It is surrounded by a moat which washes the walls in one part; and the house consists of two portions, one more than twice as long as the other. These meet at a right angle, and in this corner is a round tower. In the centre of the longer wing is the gateway, which leads completely through the house, without doors on either side. The entrance to the interior is by a door at the junction of the two wings. The greater part of the house has only two stories, but over the gateway there is a third, so as to form a sort of tower; and here is said to have been the chapel. The round tower has also a third storey, and there was originally a round tower at each end (now destroyed). The towers have a plain parapet, and do not seem to have been embattled. The windows on the ground-floor are small. Those of the upper storey are all of one light with a transom. The basement has no original communication with the rest of the house, and may therefore have been used for storage. The space enclosed by the moat is nearly square, the house occupying one side and part of another. The quadrangle may have been completed by offices built of wood and plaster, as



at the Mote at Ightham in Kent. The interior is so completely modernised that nothing can be made out of the old arrangement. It has been suggested that the design of the house, which is unusual, may have been supplied by some architect from Normandy, employed by John of Caux, the Abbot of Peterborough, who at the same time was building the Infirmary there. In 1648 Woodcroft was held out for a short time by Dr. Michael Hudson, one of Charles I.'s chaplains, with a handful of men, against the troops of the Parliament. The place was taken. "The projecting gargoyle from the parapet is still shown, to which Hudson clung, till the assailants, who had gained the tower chopped off his fingers, and he fell into the moat below. Here, while he was swimming to shore, the soldiers killed him with their pikes."—*James*. Hudson is in part the original of Dr. Rochecliffe in 'Woodstock,' and his story has been made to play an important part in the novel.

The *Church* of St. Stephen at *Etton* has early proportions, but is of no great interest.

1½ m. N.E. is **Northborough** (the nearest Stat. is at Peakirk). The *Church* of St. Andrew is chiefly of the 14th cent., with traces of Norm. and E. E. work, and the Delamare or Claypole chapel on the S. side is, especially, of beautiful design and execution, with richly traceried windows, the mouldings of which are much ornamented with the ball-flower. Beneath is a spacious vault, and under the large S. window two arched recesses, now without effigies. But in the adjoining parish of Glinton (see *post*) are two mutilated stone effigies, of a knight and lady, temp. Edward III., one in the church and the other in the churchyard. The knight, besides his sword, has a bugle horn suspended

from his side, the badge of a forester. The Delamares were foresters of Kesteven; and the effigies may be those of Geoffry Delamare and his wife, daughter of Geoffry le Scrope—the last of their family here, and the builders of the manor-house and church of Northborough. How the effigies were removed from the church is not clear. The chapel also contains an excellently designed monument, carrying the Claypole arms and initials, J.A. CL., with the date 1594. Against the W. wall of the church are some Norm. buttresses, and some Norm. capitals are worked up in the E. E. In the Dec. aisle are sedilia built of Saxon coffins. The chancel was restored in 1894, when a second piscina was discovered. Beneath is a crypt containing bones, said to be Saxon and Danish. The vestry in the S.E. turret has a groined octagonal roof. According to the register, Oliver Cromwell's wife was buried in the church, and it is thought to be the most probable resting-place of the Protector himself. The *Manor-house*, once much larger, stands at no great distance, and is of the same date as the church. The remains consist of gatehouse and hall, forming opposite sides of a court, with some portions of buildings adjoining the hall. It was perhaps at first a quadrangle. The gatehouse has lost its top. The hall, 36 ft. by 24, is lighted by square headed, transomed windows, two on each side. The external details are excellent. There is a continued ball-flower ornament, in a deeply hollowed moulding, under the eaves, and the W. gable is enriched with crockets, and terminated by a small, well designed chimney. Within, the doors of the screen remain, and are richly ornamented with crockets and ball-flower. The cross-building probably contained a portion of the buttery, kitchens, and offices. N., and opening into the hall, is a porch of Henry VII.'s

time; and connected with the gate-house is a range of stabling erected in the reign of Charles I. This venerable house came into the hands of the Claypoles, one of whom, John Claypole, Master of the Horse to Oliver Cromwell, married Elizabeth, his favourite daughter. She died here, but was buried in Westminster Abbey. The poet Clare lived here, descendants in the male line still reside in his cottage. In the churchyard are curious epitaphs by the poet. Remains of Roman cinerary urns and tiles have been found in the neighbourhood.

**Maxey** lies 2 m. W. of Northborough. The *Church* of St. Peter (restored in 1864) is some distance from the village. It has many features of interest, including an ancient sacristy with a groined stone roof, a rood-loft, and a piscina. It has a Norm. nave, and a Norm. tower of three stages, enriched with an external arcade. *King Street*, an ancient road which branched due N. from the Ermine Street at Castor, crosses the Welland a little W. of Maxey Church; and the Lolham Bridges (restored) were constructed for the purpose of letting the floods run away beneath the Roman road. At Castle End are the remains of a moat which once surrounded a castle where the Countess of Richmond, mother of Henry VII., occasionally resided.

The return to Helpston Stat. may be by the village of **Glington**, where the *Church* of St. Benedict belongs mainly to the second half of the 14th cent. The font is Norm. The tower carries a lofty "needle" spire.

Here are two effigies said to have come from Northborough Church (see *ante*).

The *Manor-house* (now a farmhouse) is a picturesque piece of Jacobean work with carved gables.

Leaving the Stat. at Helpston,

the Rly. bends round to the west, whilst the G. N. line continues northward.

**10 m. Uffington and Barnack** (Stat.). Uffington, on the Lincolnshire side of the Welland, lies about 1 m. N. of the Stat., whilst Barnack (see Rte. 11) is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.

**12 m. ★ STAMFORD** (Stat., Back St. —there is another Stat., G. N. Rly., Water St., in connexion with the branches running from Stamford to Essendine and Stamford to Wansford).

The greater part of Stamford (the name probably indicates an ancient ford at this place, across the Welland, which runs through the town) lies in Lincolnshire (see *H.Bk. for Lincolnshire*), the river being the boundary between that county and Northamptonshire. The Lincolnshire "burgh" was a royal one. The quarter lying in Northamptonshire (St. Martin's) belonged to the Abbots of Peterborough, who held it by baronial tenure, and it was (and is) known as **Stamford Baron**. It has one long broad street leading up the hill towards the entrance to Burghley Park (see *post*). The *Church* of St. Martin (restored in 1890), on the S. side of the Welland, is entirely Perp., and was built (on the site of an earlier church, destroyed by the Lancastrians in 1461) by John Russell, Bp. of Lincoln, circ. 1482. The exterior in all parts which meet the eye is rich, and the masonry excellent, but the interior is far better. "The effect, when once the porch is passed, is faultless; and the grandeur arising from its loftiness and its uncrowded space reconciles one to the loss of the picturesqueness of the earlier styles."—*G. A. Poole*. The tower is of four stages. The piers of the nave are very lofty. In the spandrels are angels bearing



shields, and the timber roof is carried on moulded corbels. The chancel is of four bays, with a Lady Chapel N.; and, beyond, the modern mortuary chapel of the Cecils. There is much stained glass, brought here during the last century from the collegiate church of Tattershall in Lincolnshire and elsewhere. It is good, but loses, of course, much of its interest from not having originally belonged to this church. The Cecil *monuments* are of great importance. At the E. end of the N. chancel aisle are the effigies, at a desk, of Richard Cecil and his wife—father and mother of the great Lord Burghley. Richard Cecil died March 19, 1553, and was buried at St. Margaret's, Westminster. Above the figures is an inscription, "In happy memory of Richard Cecil, Esquire, and Jayne his wife." (She was daughter and heiress of Wm. Heckington of Bourne, in Lincolnshire, where the future Lord Treasurer was born, Sept. 13, 1520.) Between aisle and chancel, on a fine canopied tomb of alabaster and marble, is the effigy of the great Lord Treasurer Burghley, who died in London, Aug. 4, 1598. (There were two funerals, one at Westminster, and one at Stamford, both on Aug. 28. The body was probably conveyed to Stamford, where Burghley states in his will that he had "already provided a burial-place.") He is in armour, with the red robes of the Garter, of which order he wears the star. In his left hand is the Treasurer's wand. The whole is a very fine and elaborate example of its period, and resembles in some of its details the work at Burghley House. (Compare especially the ornaments on the canopy with those on the staircase at Burghley.) The new chapel was added in 1864. It contains a monument for the 2nd Marquis of Exeter (d. 1867), and some others. Against the N. wall

of this chapel is a vast monument (formerly in the aisle), towering to the roof, by *Monnot*, of Rome. This is for John, Earl of Exeter, who died 1706, and Anne, his countess, whose elaborately reclining figures are attended by Minerva and the "goddess of arts and sciences"—whoever she may be. This Earl, we are told, lived at home "elegenter, sumptuose, splendide."

In this church was buried William Wissing, a portrait painter of some note, who died at Burghley, where he had been employed, Sept. 10, 1687. Daniel Lambert (d. 1809), notorious for his size and weight, is buried in the burial ground near the church.

Of the hospitals, that called the *Burghley Bedehouse* is on the Northamptonshire side of the Welland, immediately beyond the bridge. There was at this place a hospital dedicated to St. John the Baptist and St. Thomas of Canterbury, "for the entertaining of travellers," founded, towards the end of Henry II.'s reign, by a certain Brand, who became a monk of Peterborough. This hospital had a bridge chapel, of which no part remains; but a Norm. capital, buttress, and water-arch are worked into the Bedehouse, erected on the site by Lord Burghley, in 1597. He endowed it with an annual 100*l.*, for the maintenance of twelve poor men and a warden. The river-front, with its tall chimneys and gable, is picturesque.

Very near St. Martin's Church, at the head of the long street of St. Martin's or Stamford Baron, is an entrance to the park of **BURGHLEY**. The house is distant from the entrance rather more than 1 m. Burghley, a house of great historical interest, the architecture of which is a good example of the English renaissance, contains a large and important collection of pictures.

Burghley, the "ley," or pasture

of the great monastic house of "Burgh" (Peterborough), was the property of that Abbey at the time of the Conquest, but in the Domesday survey it appears in the holding of Geoffry of Winchester. But it soon returned to its former owners, and the manor was held under the Abbey by a family which took its name from the place, until the beginning of the 14th cent. It then passed to other holders (still under the Abbey) until, early in the 16th cent., it was bought by Richard Cecil, father of the Lord Treasurer. But there was also a monastic cell here, attached to Peterborough, and standing on part of the ground occupied by the present house. All rights of ownership came, however, at last to Richard Cecil, and to his son. The eldest son of the Treasurer was created Earl of Exeter in 1605. (Lord Burghley's second son was the 1st Earl of Salisbury.) The marquisate dates from 1801. The present is the 5th Marquis, and is in direct descent from the great Treasurer.

The **Park**, which is entered either by a side gate above St. Martin's Church, or by the principal approach a little beyond it, is 7 m. in circumference,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. long, and about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. broad. It is grandly wooded, and there is a large sheet of water; yet on the whole it wants the half-wildness and the antique forest character which delight us so greatly in the park of the other great Cecil-house at Hatfield. The avenues here are very fine and extensive, with much elm, lime, oak, and Spanish chestnut; but Burghley (owing to a difference of soil) displays no such venerable oaks as those of Hatfield. An elm avenue (the first entered from Stamford) has the trunks of its trees knotted and contorted in very singular fashion. The park-ground is varied with hollow and upland, but there is little distant view even from

the **House**, which at last shows itself among the trees on the rt. As it is approached, a very fine view is obtained of the general mass, two fronts of which are in sight, and which, with its cupolas and tall chimneys, the spire, the balustrades, and oriels glittering in the sun, is very striking and picturesque, but the absence of the old formal lay-out with its walls, piers, and iron gates, all destroyed by "Capability Brown," is sadly felt.

The early history of Burghley House is still somewhat obscure. A house was already here when Lord Burghley succeeded to the estates in 1553, and during the next few years (1556-64) a number of letters passed between Sir Wm. Cecil, as he then was, and his foreman at Burghley all relating to building operations in progress there. It is highly probable that this work comprised the end of the building containing the Great Hall, the kitchen, and the intermediate rooms: the character of the work itself points to this part being of a different date from the bulk of the house. And it is quite clear that none of this work is earlier than about the middle of the 16th cent. The idea that the kitchen formed part of a mediæval building may be dismissed. The other three sides of the courtyard—by far the greater portion of the house—were begun about 1575 and finished about 1587, the earliest date discoverable being 1577 (on the arched ceiling at the W. entrance). The architect was perhaps John Thorpe, whose folio volume, now in the Soane Museum, contains, among other plans and elevations, those (the plans only) for Burghley. Thorpe was one of the chief architects of his day; and he was the builder, for another Cecil (Sir Thomas) of the house at Wimbledon, which has entirely disappeared. Fergusson ('Hist. of Archit.') insists that Hatfield and Burghley belong



to a group of buildings which time has sanctified and sanctioned, though they certainly are not beautiful, either from the details or from any grouping of the parts. This is at least doubtful; and there are portions of Burghley, which, if fairly seen and considered, must go far to modify so sweeping a statement. Some changes have been made since the first completion of the house. But its appearance has not been altered in any important respect; and the many "imbowed windows," on which Bacon dilates in his essay 'On Building,' give at once that essentially English feeling of safety and confidence which is wanting in the great Continental houses built about the same time. The principal rooms in Italian or French houses look toward the court; in England, as at Burghley and Hatfield, they open outwards. The Tuscan open-work of the parapets, and the lofty Tuscan columns, coupled by cornices and heavy architraves, which form the chimneys, indicate the extent to which a classical influence had affected the earlier Tudor work.

The house is in the form of a parallelogram, and is built round a central court. "The inside court," says Walpole, "struck me with admiration and reverence." The whole is of Barnack stone, which probably came from Southorpe (see *ante*), as the quarries had given out before the 16th cent. The W. front, with its lofty square tower, projecting from the line, and having its angles surmounted by octangular turrets, capped with cupolas, was the part first finished. Massive iron gates, richly gilt, guard the approaches to this and the N. or principal front, which is divided into three compartments, and is unquestionably fine. On the central panel of the parapet is the date 1587. Beyond the W. front is the *Porter's Lodge* (at which the visitor must apply for admission), opening to a quadrangle,

round which are ranged various domestic offices, and in the centre of which is a venerable horse-chestnut tree.

The interior of the house is here described in the order in which it is generally shown. The vast assemblage of *pictures* consists chiefly of examples of the later Italian school which are not of the highest interest, although they give, on a grand scale, "a view of the taste in the arts which prevailed among the English nobility from the middle of the 17th cent. till about the end of the 18th cent."—*Waagen*. Horace Walpole writes of "that venerable palace . . . ornamented with a profusion of Carlo Maratti's and Luca Giordano's works." These abound; but there are also many pictures of great beauty and importance, the principal of which are here noticed. The best *portraits* (and these are of the greatest value) are placed in what is called the "Pagoda Room." These are fully described. It may be added that among later English works, the house contains no less than fifteen by the ingenious Angelica Kauffmann.

Passing through a long corridor (where a view is obtained of the inner court), a stone staircase is reached, communicating with the apartments on the first-floor, and rising to the top of the house. The peculiar ornaments of the roof, the groinings above the landing-places, with their stone pendants, and the radiating arch over the shorter flights, should all be noticed. (Some of the ornaments resemble those on the canopy of the Treasurer's monument in St. Martin's Church, see *ante*.) The first room entered is known as the *Chapel Room*. Here are many pictures of interest, but none calling for special notice. So with those in the Antechapel beyond.

In the *Chapel*, as an altarpiece, is

placed a picture by *Paul Veronese* (but not one of his best works), of which the subject is Zebedee's wife petitioning our Lord on behalf of her sons. Remark also a 'Passage of the Israelites through the Red Sea,' by *Benedetto Castiglione*, "a capital picture of the Master."—*Waagen*. On the walls are some very fine specimens of the wood-carving of *Grinling Gibbons*, who was much employed here. The chimney-piece, of various marbles, was brought from a convent near Lisbon. A seat here is called Queen Elizabeth's, and, it is said, was occupied by her on her visit to Burghley. It was also the seat of H.M. Queen Victoria when she visited Burghley in 1844. (It may here be noted that this chapel, the great hall, and the kitchen, were, it is asserted, portions of the cell, or, as it must have become at a later period, of the manor-house attached to Peterborough Abbey. It is true that Lord Burghley, in a letter dated 1585, writes of having "set his walls on the old foundation," and of having "made the rough stone walls to be square"; but the building itself affords no evidence of anything earlier than the general design of John Thorpe.)

The **Billiard-room** contains some family portraits of interest. There are seven by *Kneller*: John, 5th Earl, and his wife; Elizabeth Brownlow, wife of the 6th Earl; Edward Cecil, 4th son of the 5th Earl; William Cecil, brother of the 6th Earl; the 7th Earl when a boy; and the painter himself (interesting). Here are also the 8th Earl, by *Richardson*; two by *Lely*, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Wm. Drury, 2nd wife of the 2nd Earl; and Annabella Bennet, wife of the 6th Earl; besides a replica by him of Charles II's Duchess of Cleveland; the 1st Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, by *Dobson*; Thomas Hobbes, the "philosopher" (d. 1679) (un-

known); Sir Isaac Newton (a bust, holding an open book resting on a globe); and (especially interesting) *Verrio*, the painter, by himself. He was employed here for twelve years in painting ceilings, &c.; and his gods "sprawl" in company with those of *Laguerre* on the walls and ceilings of many of the chief apartments, covering, in *Walpole's* words, "those public surfaces on which the eye never rests long enough to criticise, and where one should be sorry to place the works of a better master." Over the chimney-piece is *Sir Thomas Lawrence's* picture of Henry Cecil, 10th Earl and 1st Marquis, his wife and daughter. He is full-length, standing near a pillar; his wife is seated beside him, and holding her child. This is the Countess who is the subject of *Tennyson's* poem. She was the Earl's second wife, and died in 1797. The Marquise dates from 1801, and her husband died in 1804, aged 50. Her husband (then only his uncle's heir), after the loss of his first wife, lived for some time in a remote part of Shropshire, calling himself Mr. Jones. He lodged for some time in the house of a farmer named *Hoggins*, whose young daughter he married, with her parents' consent; and after the death of his uncle, and his consequent accession to the Earldom, he brought her to Burghley, but without disclosing his rank.

"And they speak in gentle murmur,  
When they answer to his call,  
While he treads with footstep firmer,  
Leading on from hall to hall.  
And, while now she wonders blindly,  
Nor the meaning can divine;  
Proudly turns he round and kindly,  
'All of this is mine and thine.'"

The Countess died young; but it does not appear that "the burden of an honour unto which she was not born" weighed too heavily on her; and the poet's conclusion is at least uncertain.



The **Old Ball-room, or Second Billiard-room**, has the walls and ceiling painted by *Laguerre* (d. 1721). The effect is gloomy, with hardly the richness of tapestry. The subjects on the walls are Scipio, Cannæ, Anthony and Cleopatra at a banquet, and their deaths. The ceiling "purports to be a representation of the planetary system."

In the **Brown Drawing-room** observe the carving by *Gibbons* over the chimney-piece; birds, fruit, and flowers. Among the *pictures* here, the most important are—a man's head by *Rembrandt*; a landscape by *Ruysdael*; and a Venus and Cupid ascribed to *Michael Angelo*. Among various ornaments in this room is a china dish, with a view of Burghley upon it, dated 1745.

The **Black and Yellow Bed-chamber** contains an ancient state-bed, and is hung with tapestry. Here is more of *Gibbons'* carving; and in this, and the adjoining *dressing-room*, are *pictures*, including two by *Guercino* (Virgin and Child, and a Venus and Cupid within a garland of flowers—the flowers by *Maria da Fiori*), worth notice.

**Queen Elizabeth's Bedroom** (19 ft. by 18 ft.) retains, it is said, the furniture and hangings with which it was fitted on the occasion of the queen's visit (but see *post*). It is almost certain that Elizabeth was never at Burghley. The furniture may have been that arranged for her in Lord Burghley's house at Stamford). The hangings of the bed and the chair coverings are of dark-green velvet and gold. The tapestry was certainly never seen by Elizabeth, since it was made for the 5th Earl, probably at Mortlake. The subjects are—the 'Story of Actæon,' 'Bacchus and Ariadne,' and 'Acis and Galatea.' The best

*picture* is the 'Agony in the Garden,' by *Bassano*.

The next, or **Pagoda-room** (so called from a model which is placed in it), is *one of the most interesting in the house*, from the series of *portraits* which it contains. They may be taken as they are numbered, though this of course is not in historical succession:—David Garrick, by *Dance* (half-length, seated; hand resting on back of chair). Rachel, Lady Russell, by *Van Dyck*; seated, blue dress with roses in her lap. (The same treatment is seen in Van Dyck's 'Lady Northumberland' at Hatfield.) This is the well-known wife of Wm. Lord Russell. She was the daughter of Thos. Wriothesley, 4th Earl of Southampton, by *William Wissing* (this earl was the father of Rachel, Lady Russell). Angelica Kauffmann, by *Sir N. Dance*. Q. Henrietta Maria (half-length), by *Van Dyck*. Charles I. (half-length), by *Stone*. Head of a lady, ascribed to *Titian*. Mrs. Pelham, by *Romney*. *Annibale Caracci*, by himself. Charles II., his brother and sisters, when children, by *Stone* (a copy from the Vandyck at Windsor). *Jan Van Eyck*, (?) by himself. Lady Pembroke (daughter of George Villiers, first Duke of Buckingham), by *Ashfield*. Martin Luther, head with monogram and date; on panel, 20 in. by 15 in., by *Lucas Cranach*. Eliz. Countess of Exeter, by *Dobson*. Oliver Cromwell, by *Walker*. Henry VIII., by *Holbein*. In the king's hand is a scroll with the words "Marc. 16. Ite in mundum universū et predicate evangelium omni creaturæ." Lady Warwick, by *Ashfield*. The Lord Treasurer Burghley, by *Marc Geeraerts*,  $\frac{3}{4}$  size, white beard, black cap, high ruff, crimson dress, mantle, and collar, K.G., Treasurer's staff. This picture probably afforded the details for the effigy on the

tomb in St. Martin's Church. Queen Elizabeth, by *Marc Geeraerts*, age about 65; yellow wig; high jewelled headdress; wide, starched and wired ruff, at the side of which two small pink roses are set. Princess Mary Tudor, afterwards Queen, by *Holbein*,  $\frac{3}{4}$  miniature; dated at back, 1544. In her hands she holds a heart-shaped locket. Lady Anne Cecil (daughter of 2nd Earl of Salisbury), by *Van Dyck*. Thomas, 1st Earl of Exeter, by *Cornelius Janssens*; half-length, high black hat and black dress, ribbon and badge K.G. (panel). This was the eldest son of the great Lord Burghley by his first wife, daughter of Sir John Cheke; born 1542, d. Feb. 7, 1611–22. He was created Earl of Exeter by James I., May 4, 1605; his younger half-brother having been created Earl of Salisbury on the morning of the same day. Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, Elizabeth's well-known favourite, by *Zuccherro* (hair black, beard brown; he wears a ruff over a turned-down collar). Wm. Cavendish, Duke of Newcastle, the great Royalist, by *Van Dyck* (very fine). Lady Georgiana Cecil, daughter of first Earl of Exeter, by *C. Janssens*. Princess (afterwards Queen) Elizabeth, by *Holbein*. Jane Cecil, daughter and heiress of Wm. Hackington of Bourn, and mother of the Lord Treasurer, *unknown*. Launcelot Brown, by *Dance* ("Capability" Brown, the well-known landscape gardener, b. 1715, d. 1773. He made alterations in the park and grounds here). Countess of Desmond (so called—it is probably Rembrandt's mother), by *Rembrandt*. Portrait of a boy, by *Velasquez*. Lady Dorothy Nevill, by *Janssens* (she was the first wife of the first Earl).

In the **Purple-satin Bedroom**, the tapestry hangings were made for the 5th Earl of Exeter. In the

**Dressing-room** are many pictures, of which a Virgin and Child on copper, by *B. Castiglione* (given by Pope Clement XVI. to the 9th Earl), is "far more noble and tender than most of the pictures by this master."—*Waagen*. A Holy Family, by *Passeri*; a St. Hubert, assigned to *Albert Dürer*; and a 'Susanna,' by *Sir Peter Lely* ("the best of his historical pictures I have seen," says *Waagen*), should be noticed.

Passing to the S. side of the house, and into the so-called **George Rooms**—prepared for George IV., but not occupied by him. They were used by the Queen and Prince Albert in 1844. The **State Bedroom** has fine carvings by *Gibbons* over the doors; and the ceiling, painted by *Verrio*, displays 'Morning Chasing away Night,' and sundry other mythological representations which the visitor will hardly care to make out. Among the pictures remark: 'Angels appearing to the infant Christ with emblems of the Passion,' by *N. Poussin*, careful and fine; a boy with a pigeon, by *Guido*; Galatea, by *Albani*, "very graceful, and of warm, clear colouring."—*Waagen*. The Salutation, signed by *Denis Calvert*. A panel of Christ in the Temple with the Doctors, by *L. Van Uden*.

A small closet opening from this room, called the **Jewel Closet**, contains the famous *Carlo Dolci* (b. 1616, d. 1686) of 'Our Lord blessing the bread and the cup.' There is a replica in the Museum at Dresden and another at Corsham. It was brought from Italy by the 5th Earl. Here are also a 'Head of the Baptist,' and 'The Child Jesus with flowers' (good), also by *Carlo Dolci*. In a glass case are sundry curiosities—a triangular crystal set with garnets, called Queen Elizabeth's salt-cellar; a gold spoon for the oil used at her



coronation; her watch and tablet; the pocket-handkerchief of William III.; a small head of the Lord Treasurer, fixed to the back of an antique intaglio of Caracalla; and a head of Elizabeth appendant. These are cut in onyx by *Valerio Belli*; and a variety of trinkets of much value.

The **Second State Bedroom** contains a very magnificent bed, placed here before Queen Victoria's visit. The walls are hung with tapestry made for the 5th Earl, with views of Burghley and Wothorpe in the borderings. The ceiling is by *Verrio*, and has a great display of his usual gods and goddesses.

The **Dressing-room** attached has another ceiling by *Verrio*, with the 'Marriage of Cupid and Psyche.' Among the pictures an Adoration of the Shepherds, by *Floris*, and two flower-pieces by *Riccio*, deserve notice.

The **Great Drawing-room** has on the ceiling, by *Verrio*, the Marriage of Jupiter and Juno. Here are two paintings by *Claude* (of his middle period); two by *Guido*; a Holy Family, by *Andrea del Sarto*; and a curious picture, attributed to *Cimabue*, and representing the Countess Matilda, the great supporter of Gregory VII. She is in a long red robe, with a white rose in one hand. The picture is inscribed 'La gran Contessa Matilda.' Observe, also, a picture by *Giacomo Bassano*, 'Gathering Manna.' In this room are two very fine vases of old Delft.

The next, or **Breakfast-room**, has its ceiling and walls covered with *Verrio's* mythologies—and a figure on the E. side, in the group of Vulcan and the Cyclops, is said to represent the painter. The

room contains a large collection of *china*, of various places and periods. A cabinet of ebony and tortoise-shell has the front and interior painted by *Rubens* and his pupils.

The **Great Staircase**, which is now reached, has on the ceiling *Verrio's* most important work here—a representation of the infernal regions. The Burghley tradition runs that *Verrio* was very particular about his dinner; and that the cook was not always sufficiently careful. On one occasion he was so enraged by the cook's neglect that he placed the portrait of the offender among the sufferers in his *Inferno*—where it still remains. There were precedents for such a proceeding; witness the story of a Venetian artist, who complained to the Pope that he had been treated by one of his brethren in a similar fashion. The Pope observed that if it had been only Purgatory, something might perhaps have been done; but that he had no control beyond that region. This ceiling was retouched by a far greater artist than *Verrio*—*Stothard*—who painted the walls of the staircase in the course of three summers, beginning in 1799. The subjects are War, Intemperance (Cleopatra is dissolving the pearl), and the descent of Orpheus to the Infernal Regions. The paintings are on a very large scale, with figures 8 ft. high, and display great power and brilliancy of colour. But important as they are, *Stothard* is not here at his best, and the delicacy and refinement of his later work are hardly indicated. On the landing is a 'Boy and Dolphin,' by *Nollekens*, copied from an antique formerly in the Barbarini Palace at Rome.

The **Great Hall** is 68 ft. by 30 ft., and 66 ft. in height. The open roof is its best feature. At the dais

end is a lofty oriel window with the arms of Cecil and various quarterings. On the chimney-piece are the arms as borne by Lord Burghley. There is a music gallery at the N. end. The best pictures here are: Sir Anthony Brown, 1st Lord Montague, and his second wife; full-lengths, by (or after) *Lucas de Heere*; the great and eccentric Earl of Peterborough, by *J. B. Vanloo*; George I., George II., Queen Caroline, by *Michael Dahl*; and the late Prince Consort, a copy from *Winterhalter*.

There are other pictures in the private apartments not shown to visitors.

Burghley has of course had its due allowance of royal visitors, and its full historical distinction. In spite of the general tradition, however, it is tolerably certain that Elizabeth was never in the present house. According to Lord Burghley's diary, the queen was "at my house at Stamford," Aug. 5, 1566; but this was a house in the town, as we are expressly told; and a fever in the house (then the old house) at Burghley prevented Elizabeth from going there. There is no other record of a visit to this place or neighbourhood. It was after a stay at Theobalds that the Queen made her well-known speech to her old minister, saying that "his head and her purse could do anything"; and it was at Theobalds that the great "entertainments" of Elizabeth by Burghley took place, which "cost him 2000*l.* or 3000*l.* each time." James I. was received at Burghley with great magnificence, April 23, 1603, on his way from Scotland to London, "the house seeming so rich as if it had been furnished at the charge of an emperor." Bp. Chaderton of Lincoln preached on the 24th (Easter day); and then "all the offices of the house were set open, that every man might have free access to buttry, pantries, kitchen, to eat and drink in at their

pleasure." It does not appear that Charles I. visited Burghley, although he more than once passed through, and slept in, Stamford. Cromwell, in 1643, marched to Stamford from Peterborough, and took possession of the town; "whereupon," says Carlyle, "the Cavaliers from Newark and Belvoir Castle came hovering about him; he drove them into Burghley House, and laid siege to the same; at three in the morning he battered it with all his shot, and stormed it at last." Much harm, however, was not done; and the Burghley tradition bears that the portrait of Cromwell by *Walker* now in the house was afterwards sent by the Protector as a present to Lady Exeter. William III., who in 1695 (when he visited Althorp, see Rte. 5) "lodged in Dr. Colby's house at Stamford," twice visited Burghley, and, it is asserted, remarked that "the house was too large for a subject." Matthew Prior was at this time under the patronage of the Earl of Exeter, and was much at Burghley; to which place, writes Walpole, "he has added celebrity by his pleasing verses." These will be found in his 'Works.' There are lines "On the Countess of Exeter playing on a lute"; and on "Jordain's picture of Seneca dying in a bath." This work by Giordano is not now at Burghley.

Burghley is wonderfully rich in massive silver plate, including enormous wine-coolers, and some large silver-gilt dishes received by the earls and marquises as Hereditary Grand Almoners at the Coronation of the British Sovereign.

The Gardens are at some distance from the house, and although excellent, contain nothing which calls for especial notice. "Capability Brown" was employed here about 1775, and made much alteration in the grounds. The lake on the S. side of the house, covering about 32



acres, was formed by him. A stone bridge across it leads to the middle and upper parks, which are not open to the public.

lived in it for a short time. It was entirely dismantled in 1759.

At **Wothorpe**, 1 m. S.W. of Stamford, and commanding a good view of the town, are the ivy-covered ruins of a house built about 1600 by Thomas Cecil, afterwards 1st Earl of Exeter, as he said, "to retire out of the dust while his great house at Burghley was a-sweeping." Charles Villiers, 2nd Duke of Buckingham,

#### *The Route by Road.*

The best road from Peterborough to Stamford is through Castor (4 m.) to Wansford (8 m.), and then turn N. along the Great North Road, passing Burghley Park on the rt. just before reaching Stamford (14 m.).

## ROUTE 4.

### NORTHAMPTON TO MARKET HARBOROUGH.

(LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY. 18 m.)

Rail.	Stations.
	<b>NORTHAMPTON</b> (Castle Stat.).
4 m.	Pitsford and Brampton.
6½ m.	Spratton.
7½ m.	Brixworth.
9½ m.	Lampport.
13½ m.	Kelmarsh.
14½ m.	Clipston and Oxendon.
18 m.	Market Harborough.

Leaving Northampton from Castle Stat. the Rly. proceeds N., and reaches

**4 m. Pitsford and Brampton** (Stat.), from which Brampton on one hand, and Boughton and Pitsford on the other, may be visited. Just above the Stat. is *Sedgebrook* (H. P. Markham, Esq., D.L.). The village of **Church Brampton** is a little more than 1 m. W. from the Stat., and stands pleasantly in a wooded and somewhat broken country. The *Church* of St. Botolf, admirably kept, has a late Dec. nave, and a chancel (of similar character), rebuilt since [Northamptonshire.]

1850 on the foundations of the old one. There are some modern windows of stained glass. The most interesting object in the church, however, is a chest, much ornamented with iron work, and no doubt of the 13th cent.

**Chapel Brampton** lies near to the Stat. *Brampton House* (Hon. W. F. Dawnay).

**Boughton**, 1½ m. S.E., is only noticeable from its former importance. ¾ m. from the village is the Green, where a considerable fair is here held at midsummer, which formerly attracted all the neighbouring farmers and gentry; and Boughton House, long pulled down, was a seat of the Greens and Wentworths; and afterwards of Lord Vaux. (The Greens, of Green's Norton, took, it is said, their name from this village-green. See Green's Norton, Rte. 7.) The picturesque ruins of a fine Dec. church stand on the green. The E. end of the chancel

had two windows, with a niche for a life-sized figure between them. The present *Church*, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, was erected in the 16th cent., but, with exception of the tower, it was entirely rebuilt in the beginning of the 19th cent. The so-called obelisk, made of small stones, seen on its hill-top from all the surrounding country, stands in what was once the park of Boughton, and was raised to the memory of a Duke of Devonshire. The inscription has been erased.

Pitsford lies 1 m. N.E. from the Stat. The *Church* of All Saints, a stone building with a massive E. E. tower. The S. doorway with a rudely sculptured tympanum is Norm. The Dec. font is octagonal, and has a curious projecting ledge on one side. The church was almost entirely rebuilt in 1867. The tower, N. wall, and S. doorway are all that were left of the original building.

6½ m. *Spratton* (Stat.). The village stands high on the hill, and the interesting *Church* of St. Luke is a good landmark. The interior was restored in 1847; a small portion of the spire was taken down and rebuilt in 1870. The building is Trans.-Norm., with later changes and additions. The tower is much enriched in the belfry stage and in that below it, with arcades of pointed arches. A Perp. parapet rests on the original corbel table of heads. The W. door has a semi-circular head, with zigzags and grotesques. In the nave are five bays; the N. arcade is of the same date as the tower, with round piers and arches. The S. arcade is early Dec., with round piers and pointed arches. The font is Trans.-Norm. The chancel, at first Dec., was much altered in the Perp. period. Under the arches which divide the N. chantry from the chancel are two altar-tombs. The westernmost bears the effigy of a knight in camail and jupon, with a collar of SS. On the

tomb the arms of Swinford and the Ardens each occur three times; and the effigy is undoubtedly that of Sir John Swinford (d. 1371), who married the heiress of the Ardens. The iron railings are coeval. The other tomb is plain, and there is a third in the N. aisle. The Ardens long held the manor. The modern stained glass by Messrs. Powell in the E. window of the chancel is to the memory of the late vicar. In the churchyard is the tall and slender shaft of an early cross. *Spratton Hall* (Lord Erskine), stands at the N. end of the village. *Spratton Grange* (W. H. Foster Esq., J.P.) is a modern house.

*Broom Hill* (Mrs. Simson).

*Spratton* lies on the high road from Northampton to Welford and Leicester: and the places of interest which occur between *Spratton* and Welford may best be described here. *Great Creaton*, 1 m. on this road, has a small *Church*, dedicated to St. Michael, with Dec. and Perp. portions; the chancel was restored in 1898. That of *Hollowell*, 1 m. l., was built in 1840 by the Rev. J. D. Watson, then rector. The road is soon bordered by the park of *Cottesbrooke Hall*, the property of Sir Herbert Hay Langham, Bart., now occupied by R. B. Loder, Esq. There is here much wood, and the whole scene is pleasant. The house is of the time of George II., and handsome. The *Church* of *Cottesbrooke*, dedicated to All Saints, stands picturesquely in a wooded dell, a little east of the village. It is throughout early Dec., except the walls above the windows of the nave, which are Perp. The general design is good, and the tower is especially noticeable for the excellence of its simple details. The shields on the parapet carry the arms of Butvileyn. There is a large modern Langham monument in the chancel; and others for members of this family, which



acquired Cottesbrooke in the reign of Charles I.

1 m. W. of the road is **Guilsborough**, where the *Church* of St. Etheldreda has an E. E. tower, with a Dec. broach spire. The rest of the church was Dec., but it has been much altered, and was restored, partly in 1815, partly about 1840. There is a *Grammar School* here of some note, founded in 1688 by Sir John Langham, of Cottesbrooke. The building contains a remarkable staircase of carved oak, very massive and solid, which rises in a square the whole height of the house. In the neighbourhood are *The Grange*, (E. Dawkins, Esq.), the property of H. A. Boughton-Leigh, Esq., of Brownsover Hall, Rugby, and *Guilsborough Hall* (C. Harvey, Esq.). On the latter estate is a large Roman encampment, called the *Burroughs*: a parallelogram of 600 ft. by 300 ft., having a single fosse and vallum, and comprising an area of about 8 acres. It gives name not only to the parish, but to the hundred of Guilsborough.

2 m. further N. on the main road to Leicester is **Thornby**. *Thornby Hall* is the seat of Sir James Pender, Bart., M.P. Oliver Cromwell is said to have stopped here the night before the battle of Naseby. Another mile N.W. is **Cold Ashby**. The *Church* of St. Denis is noted for having the earliest bell in the county, dated 1317. At Honey Hill, an unusually fine view for this district is obtained.

The village and battle-field of **Naseby** lie about 3 m. N. from Guilsborough; nearly the same distance S.W. from Welford and from Market Harborough, 6 m.

The plateau, or high table-land on which Naseby stands, is the central watershed of England. On it are the springs of the Avon, the Nene, the Welland, and many lesser streams; the Avon (Shakespeare's Avon) flowing westward to join the

Severn; the Nene and the Welland running north and east into the German ocean. The ground is locally said to be the "highest in England"; for the "Middle Angles," who settled here, knew nothing, like their descendants, of such hills as Ingleborough or Helvellyn. The actual heights are—at the base of the tower of Naseby Church, 630 ft., and at the base of the obelisk, which has been raised at no great distance, 648 ft. These points are higher than the field of the battle, N. of them. This, however, is no doubt one of the loftiest plateaux in the country, and is high enough to command very extensive views in all directions. The ridges of Edgehill (see *H. Bk. for Warwickshire*) are visible in the distance S.W. Edgehill (Oct. 23, 1642) was the first battle of the Civil War and the traditions and local recollections concerning it are more numerous than those of Naseby (June 14, 1645), the last great fight, and that in which the fate of the king was really decided. Between the two battles there had been others, such as Marston Moor, and constant skirmishes and sieges which familiarised the people to war and its horrors. Hence Naseby made less impression than Edgehill.

On the 7th of May, 1645, the King and Prince Rupert left Oxford, and took the field, hoping to raise the siege of Chester. Hearing this, the "Committee" then sitting in London ordered Fairfax with his army of the "new model," then in the west, to return at once and invest Oxford. This was done. Charles advanced to Leicester and took it by storm; then, learning that Oxford was blockaded, he turned southward for the relief of that place, and established his headquarters at the Wheatsheaf Inn at Daventry (see Rte. 6). Fairfax marched to meet him from before Oxford, and (June 12) encamped at Kislingbury, 5 m.

E. of the position of the royal army, on Borough Hill, above Daventry. Charles was riding from the "Wheatsheaf" to hunt a buck in the park of Fawsley, when he received news that the "new model" army was close at hand. A council of war was called, and it was determined to march away for Market Harborough, and to proceed toward Pontefract (then besieged), so as to avoid a battle. But this Fairfax was resolved to press. He rode out himself on the night between the 12th and 13th, which was dark and rainy, and proceeding within 1 m. of the village of Flore (Rte. 6), saw the blaze of the huts on Borough Hill, set on fire by the Royalists as they left them, and heard the rumble of carts and the heavy tramp of men and horses. He then knew that the king's army was marching away north. (On the return of Fairfax to camp he found that he had forgotten the pass-word, and was stopped for some time by one of his own sentries.) Early on the morning of the 13th, Harrison was sent with a troop of horse to Daventry, and Ireton was despatched to hang on the king's rear. Cromwell arrived at headquarters, with his regiment (not of the new model); and the same night Fairfax encamped at Guilsborough (see *ante*). The van and main body of the Royalists had reached Market Harborough. The king was in a house at Lubenham (see Rte. 11); there was a detachment at Lutterworth, and a rear-guard of horse at Naseby. On these last Ireton fell in the middle of the night, and took many of them prisoners. A few escaped to Lubenham, and roused the king, who dressed at 2 A.M. of the 14th, and rode off to Market Harborough, where Rupert was quartered. Here, in a long low room of the King's Head Inn, a council of war was held. Retreat was impossible; and although Rupert disapproved,

Charles resolved to face about and give battle. Fairfax advanced from Guilsborough at dawn, and at 5 A.M. was in the village of Naseby.

"The Naseby plateau extends from the village northwards to beyond Sibbertoft, where the hills slope down to the valley of the Welland. The plateau consists of a succession of low rolling hills with intervening valleys. 'A place of little hills and vales, the ground, some ploughed, some champein,' as one of the combatants described it. N. of the village there is a slight depression, the ground rising again to Mill Hill, which is 1 m. from the church. Thence the ground slopes gently down in three successive waves, and finally rises again to Dust Hill. The distance between the tops of Dust and Mill Hills is about a mile, and the intervening space, called Broadmoor, was the battle-field. The continuation of Mill Hill to the W. was then called Red-pit Hill." A double fence, with the hedge, forming the boundary between the parishes of Naseby and Sulby, stretched across from the base of Dust Hill to Red-pit Hill. (See *Markham's 'Life of Fairfax,'* where will be found the best modern account of the battle, with an excellent ground-plan.)

Charles marched from Harborough at about 7 A.M., and approached Naseby over the hill of Sibbertoft, appearing on the slope of Dust Hill about the same time as the army of the Parliament reached Mill Hill, opposite. Prince Rupert had then command of the king's forces, of which the main battle consisted of regiments of infantry formed in *tertias*, or solid squares of pikemen flanked by musketeers. These were under the command of Sir Jacob Astley; "an honest, brave, and plain man," says Clarendon, "and as fit for the office he exercised of major-general of foot as Christendom yielded." The cavalry flanked him



on either side, the right commanded by Rupert, and divided into two brigades under Prince Maurice and the Earl of Northampton; the l. by Sir Marmaduke Langdale. In the rear of Astley's main battle was a reserve of horse under Col. Howard, and farther in the rear again, the main body of the reserves under the Earl of Lindsay, whose father received his death wound at Edgehill. The whole Royalist army numbered about 5520 horse and 5300 foot; but there were many hundreds of camp followers. They had halted at Sibbertoft, when the king, in complete armour, with his drawn sword in his hand, rode along the line and asked the men whether they were ready to fight for him? The answer was "All! All!"—with ringing cheers.

Fairfax's centre was formed of squares of infantry under General Skippon. The left wing of cavalry was under Ireton; the right under Cromwell. Sulby Hedges were lined by Colonel Okey with his dismounted dragoons. Fairfax himself "was everywhere as occasion required." The word of the Parliamentarians was, "God our strength!" that of the Royalists, "Queen Mary!" The Royalists all wore bean-stalks in their hats; the others had no distinguishable mark, though some had a bit of paper or linen "stuck in their bands."

Fairfax at length gave the order to advance, and between 10 and 11 o'clock the armies met in Broadmoor. Rupert's wing at once routed that of Ireton, to which he was opposed; and his troopers, following the evil precedent of Edgehill, galloped to the rear of the Parliamentary army, and began plundering the waggons. Okey then ordered his dragoons to mount, and prepare for work. Meanwhile on the Parliamentary right, Cromwell had completely routed Langdale's horse, and Fairfax, who had led with Cromwell, left the pursuit to him,

and returned to the struggle between the main battles. This was fierce for a time, and Skippon himself was wounded; but the arrival of Fairfax, and the sudden appearance of Okey with his dragoons, decided the fate of the Royalists, who fell into utter confusion, and their centre was utterly routed. The last square of the Royalists was broken by Doyley and Fairfax. Rupert at last led his troops back to the field, but to no purpose. The Royal reserve of horse, with the king as their leader, made a gallant attempt to recover the day; but a second line of battle was formed by Fairfax, and although Charles cried out "Face about once more!—give one charge more and recover the day!" and was on the point of dashing forward, the Earl of Carnwath, laying hand on his bridle, cried, "Will you go upon your death in an instant?"—the horse was turned, there was a sudden panic, and the whole body of Royalists fled at a gallop, every man shifting for himself. It is impossible to deny the truth of Clarendon's words—"Courage was only to be relied on, where all conduct failed so much"—and the incapacity of Rupert's generalship was never more completely shown. On the other hand the judgment and military skill of Fairfax are just as conspicuous. He ordered that no horse soldier was to dismount for plunder, but that the cavalry was at once to follow the king's flying army. Some were overtaken in a deep ravine near Sibbertoft, called Hellecombe, and there sold their lives dearly. Another party was cut to pieces at the churchyard gates of Marston Trussell (their bones, some buttons, and a knife, were recently found buried in the clay by the chancel wall). Cromwell chased the main body to within 2 m. of Leicester. The king never drew rein till he reached Ashby-de-la Zouch, 28 m. distant, and then went on to Lichfield. About 1000 Royal-

ists were killed, 700 in battle, and 300 in the pursuit. 4500 prisoners were taken, besides stands of arms, colours, 200 waggons laden with stores, the king's coach, with his cabinet of correspondence, and all his household servants. The victors lost, it is asserted, not more than 200 men. The battle lasted about three hours. A number of Irishwomen followed the royal camp, and of them, but without the knowledge of Fairfax, 100 were killed, and the others slashed and disfigured. "Six coaches full of ladies," and some respectable women in the waggons were, we are told, treated with consideration. There is a local tradition that many wives of officers were killed in the pursuit;—but this seems to be a confusion with the story of the Irish "harpies" as they were called. The letters seized in the king's coach disclosed his correspondence with the Irish Royalists and others. A committee was appointed by Parliament to open and report upon them; and their contents, no less than the issue of the battle, went to ruin his cause. He was never again able to take the field at the head of an army; but as Sir Philip Warwick says, "was like a hunted partridge, flitting from one castle to another."

There are few local relics, and few traditions of this famous battle. The *Sulby Hedges*, lined by Okey's dragoons, may be traced, and are perhaps much the same as in 1645, when the rest of the field was unenclosed. The Parliamentary officers were, it is said, buried under the tower of Naseby Church, where some bones have been found; and the table at which the Royalist horse were carousing in a house at Naseby, when they were overtaken by Ireton's troopers, is preserved at *Naseby Woolleys* (Capt. Stanley Munday). The bodies of the slain were for the most part buried in pits on the battle-field, marked at present by

the sinking of the earth, and the fringe of brambles surrounding them. Bullets are frequently turned up in ploughing. A stone obelisk with an inscription, well intended but ill-judged, was raised near the church in 1823 by John Fitzgerald, Esq.

*Naseby Church* of All Saints, restored in 1860, is without interest, with the exception of the curious stilted pillars on the N.; and the good capitals S. Both are Dec. The church had long a truncated spire on which was fixed a hollow ball of copper, brought from Boulogne by Sir Giles Allingham, when that town was taken by the English, temp. Hen. VIII. He placed it on his house at Horseheath in Cambridgeshire; and when that was pulled down it came into the hands of Mr. Ashby, who fastened it on the spire. It was removed when the spire was completed in 1860. It may be noted that two of the bells are inscribed "God save the king," and "Auspice Regno" round the royal arms. On two others the device is King Charles on horseback, with an inscription and the date 1633. There is some modern stained glass in the church.

The Avon rises at *Avon Well*, very near the church, W. A source of the *Nene* is a little farther off by the side of the road which runs E.

The *Welland* rises in the cellar of *Sibbertoft* vicarage, 3 m. N. The Rev. Thomas James, Canon of Peterborough, who died in 1864, and was the author of many valuable works, including an excellent account of Northamptonshire (printed in the 'Quarterly Review,' and afterwards reprinted in 1864), was for some years vicar of Sibbertoft. The great botanist, the Rev. M. J. Berkeley, for many years vicar of this parish, was the author of many botanical works; he died here 30th July, 1889. In the *Church* (chiefly E. E.), dedi-



cated to St. Helen, there is an inscription round the base of the font, recording its having been restored in his memory. The W. window in the tower is also a memorial of him. There is a mural *brass* to Anthony Atkins (d. 1561). The entrance to the pulpit is by the old rood-loft stairs. On Fox Hill, N.E. of the village, is an entrenchment of some extent.

7½ m. **Brixworth** (Stat.), *Briclesworde* in Domesday Book, was one of the earliest possessions of Medeshamstede (Peterborough); and according to a passage quoted by Leland from some unknown chronicler, a cell attached to the great monastery was founded here either by the Abbot Saxulf or some immediate successor. In the 13th cent. the rectory was given to Salisbury Cathedral, the chancellor of which cathedral held it as his prebend until quite recently. The *Church* of All Saints, which stands high and well, with fine trees about it, consists at present of nave, chancel and apse, S. aisle or chapel, and W. tower, with staircase turret attached. The great interest of the building arises from its early character, and from the material (Roman brick) which is largely used in it. It has been suggested that it is in part an actual Roman basilica; but such a building would only have been found at a considerable station; and there is no reason for believing that any such station existed on the site of Brixworth. The only existing traces of what may be Roman work are some indistinct lines of castramentation in a field adjoining the churchyard. Still there can be no doubt that a large Roman building of some sort did exist here, and that its remains were used by the builders of the existing church. The mortar which now appears is not Roman; but fragments of unmistakable Roman mortar were found adhering

to some of the bricks—now unfortunately “pointed” by too zealous masons. There can be little doubt but that Brixworth is an early, and therefore very important example of Romanesque—that is, of the direct imitation of Roman work by English builders (see *Earl’s Barton*, Rte. 2). Little local or national style has here been developed, and the Roman brick has been used as it might have been used by Roman builders. The original plan (which has been traced with certainty) consisted of a nave of four bays, with narrow N. and S. aisles 11 ft. wide. A W. tower opened to the nave, and to a squared chamber on either side, N. and S.; which chambers again opened to the nave aisles. There were also square chambers or chapels opening from the E. ends of the aisles, and also communicating with the chancel. Three arches crossed the E. end of the nave, and another arch opened into an apse at the E. end of the chancel, which was thus distinctly marked. The apse, polygonal on the exterior, was surrounded by a semi-circular passage or ambulatory, which formed the outside wall of the church towards the E., and arched over. At a period much later than the rest of the church, but still no doubt before the Conquest, a circular staircase turret was added on the W. front of the tower, some change was made in the tower arch opening to the nave, and all access to the tower from the outside was closed. This was probably done for the sake of security, perhaps after some Danish foray. The tower was thus converted into a stronghold. At some unknown period, but before the building of the present S. chapel, the original aisles were removed, and the arcade on either side closed, so as to form the outer wall. Other changes followed. Dec. and Perp. windows were inserted; and in the reign of Henry VI. the chancel was

lengthened and remodelled, with the apparent destruction of the apse. This was the condition of the church when its restoration was undertaken by Mr. Watkins—except that the wash and plaster had been removed from two of the arches, so as to show the Roman brickwork, by Miss Baker, sister of the historian of Northants. The church has been cleared of all obscuring plaster. The arches and their piers have been thoroughly disclosed, and although the aisles have not been restored, the walls have been set back, so as to show the piers, and the intruded windows have been replaced by smaller, round-headed ones. The apse has been restored on the old foundations, since a portion of the polygonal wall was discovered in its place. The enclosing wall of the ambulatory is traced, but the ambulatory itself has not been rebuilt. It may be added that the dimensions of the nave are 60 ft. by 30 ft.; and that the chancel, from its W. arch to the arch of the apse, is 30 ft.

The semicircular arches of the nave are built with Roman bricks, mostly in two courses, one above another, as if for strength, and rest on square imposts of the same material, set upon square piers of brick and stone intermingled. Above, on either side, are three clerestory windows, also round headed, and set between, not over, each main arch. It had been conjectured that this clerestory was an addition, perhaps of the same date as the stair turret; but the clearing of the walls during the restoration showed that it was built at the same time as the main arcade. The masonry (except the brick) is rubble, "strengthened at the corners with large rude blocks of granite, sandstone, and clay slate . . . and cemented by a mortar as hardened as the stone themselves."—*C. F. W.* In the tower, the stair turret, and elsewhere, herringbone masonry

occurs in patches, quite irregularly. It is worth notice, also, that in the E. E. and Dec. additions Roman bricks are used—perhaps taken from the destroyed aisles.

At the E. end of the chancel (the late Sir H. Dryden, Bart., wrote a paper "on the chancel of Brixworth Church" in the Arch. Soc. Reports for 1890) the lofty arch opening to the apse remains as it was at first built, except that the piers have been strengthened. There is a clerestory window on either side; and both arch and windows resemble those of the nave in construction. There was a second arch, resting on a transverse wall, at the E. end of the nave. The bases of the piers have been found, but this arch is gone. In the tower, the W. arch formed the original grand entrance to the church. A lesser arch opposite opened to the nave; and when the staircase turret was added, this arch was shorn of its crown, to receive a three-light window with baluster shafts, as a substitute for the W. window of the tower, which was closed by the staircase. The square tower is bonded in with the nave at intervals. The round stair turret is a clear addition, and of very rough masonry. At the E. end, the ambulatory round the apse was on a considerably lower level than the floor of the apse itself; but a thorough examination has disclosed no trace of a crypt. Indeed, the chancel and the apse were on the same level. Externally the apse had shallow, pilaster-like buttresses. "In scraping the stucco and mortar off the walls, a large block of freestone was discovered built into the W. pier of the western arch of the S. side of the church by the early Saxons, having a Roman eagle of the Assyrian type." This is now preserved in the church; it may perhaps be Roman, or even Saxon. There are mortices in it, for the fixing, apparently, of a standard.



The present entrance to the church is by a Norm. portal built into the lower part of the westernmost arch on the S. side. The small S. chapel or aisle, which is attached to the S. side of the chancel, was added in the E. E. period as the chantry of the Verduns, then lords of the manor. Here is the cross-legged effigy of Sir John de Verdun, and a late altar-tomb for a Lord Inverary. The oaken screen here is of the 16th cent. The upper part of the tower, with its spire, are additions of the Dec. period. At the E. end of the nave is a curious 14th cent. reliquary, which, when discovered, contained the "throat bone" of Bp. Boniface.

Some coins of Antoninus Pius and Carausius have been found at Brixworth, and it is said that Roman urns have occurred. A so-called Saxon arch found in rebuilding the Vicarage, but no longer existing, has been claimed as part of the cell belonging to Peterborough. The building of so important a church here is no doubt due to that great monastery; and its size and importance, relatively to the consequence of the place, probably saved it, as Mr. Ayliffe Poole points out, from a mediæval rebuilding.

Brixworth boasts a distinction of very different character, in the kennels of the famous *Pythchley Hunt* (see Rte. 9), which have long been established in the village. The Pythchley and Woodland Pythchley hunt the greater part of the county. Mr. W. Wroughton is the Master.

About 3 m. E. of Brixworth is the picturesque village of *Holcot*, occupying broken ground with fine trees scattered about it. The Church of St. Mary and All Saints has a Dec. nave with a Perp. clerestory. There is a good view from the N. side of the churchyard.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.E. is *Hannington*. The Church of St. Peter and St. Paul is E. E. throughout, and has a pecu-

liar single arcade which divides the nave through the centre, thus forming a double nave.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.W. of Hannington is *Walgrave*. The Church of St. Peter is a Dec. edifice standing on high ground. It has a western tower surmounted by a lofty spire. John William, who became Bp. of Lincoln and afterwards, in 1641, Archbp. of York, was for some time rector here. His chaplain, John Hacket, who became Bp. of Lichfield after the Restoration, recorded his life at Walgrave. The *Hall*, now a farm-house, belonged formerly to the Langhams, and has good Elizabethan remains.

Between Brixworth Stat. and that of Lampport lie (rt.) the churches of Scaldwell, Old or Wold, and Faxton.

At Scaldwell, the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul (restd. 1863) has a Dec. S. arcade and an early Perp. on the N. side. The nave and chancel are of equal length. The font is good Dec., with a modern cover; the E. window Perp. The tower is certainly early, and shows marks of Saxon work.

*Old or Wold.* The Church of St. Andrew has a fine Dec. tower (the most interesting portion), but is mainly Perp. There are fragments of a carved pulpit of the 16th cent.

$9\frac{3}{4}$  m. Lampport (Stat.). On the hill above is *Lampport Hall* (Sir Charles E. Isham, Bart.). The house was designed by Webb, son-in-law of Inigo Jones. It contains some family pictures, and a good library. The grounds are extensive and pleasant, and the large park is well wooded. The Church of All Saints, in the village, dates probably from the beginning of the 13th cent. The chancel, together with the aisle windows, were, however, badly restored in the time of Queen Anne. There are some modern stained glass, a good modern

font, and many Isham memorials. The country here is broken into hill and dale, and the views over Cottesbrooke Woods are pleasing.

1 m. S.W. is the hamlet of **Hang-ing Houghton**, where, during the 15th and 16th cents., the Montagu family had a *manor-house*, but no traces now exist, the materials having been removed about two hundred years ago, and built into the present Rectory at Lamport.

Across the fields is **Faxton**, a chapelry in the parish of Lamport. It has a small, isolated *Church* of St. Denis, which was originally E. E., but was altered in the Dec. period. The chancel arch and E. window are early Dec. There is a mural monument for a certain judge, Sir Augustine Nichols, who lived here, and who was poisoned in 1616, when on circuit at Kendal, —to prevent his passing sentence of death on a prisoner. He kneels in his robes at a desk; Justice and Fortitude support him. The balance and scales held by Justice (which have unfortunately dropped off) were supposed by the villagers to represent the weighing of the poison, and four figures on the monument represent the four cardinal virtues — Justice, Fortitude, Prudence, and Temperance. The font has a curious rudely-cut recess on the exterior of the basin.

Proceeding from Lamport, on the rt., about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the Stat., is **Maidwell**. The *Church* of St. Mary, restored in 1891 by Sir Robert Loder, Bart., when the chancel was rebuilt, is one of two churches (representing two manors) which formerly stood here. The other has disappeared altogether. It contains some monuments, 17th cent., to the Haslewood family. *Maidwell Hall* (R. B. Loder, Esq., J.P.) was burnt down a few years ago, and has not been

rebuilt, the ruins are still standing. The country here is wooded and pretty; and between Maidwell and Haselbeech (2 m. W.) is a picturesque valley with fine trees, much favoured by picnic parties.

**Haselbeech** (in Domesday Book *Haselbech*. The name = the stream (*bech*) of the Eise or Ouse, which rises here, and is said to be the same as Wisbech at the mouth) stands on high ground, with fine extensive views from the *Hall* (Mrs. Middleton) and *Haselbeech Hill* (A. Pell, Esq.). The chief point of interest is the *Church* of St. Michael, with a good tower and with pre-Reformation oak seats and pulpit. A mortuary chapel adjoining the chancel was built in 1872, and contains an altar-tomb with recumbent effigies for the wife and child (d. 1871) of Lord Hawkesbury. In the village is an old well, and a perfect set of moveable stocks is kept in the tower of the church.

**13 $\frac{1}{2}$  m. Kelmarsh (Stat.).** The *Church* of St. Dionysius was restored and partly rebuilt in 1876. The roof of nave and chancel are modern, as are the carved oak seats, and the pulpit and reading-desk of walnut. There is a mosaic reredos; and the side arcades of the chancel are inlaid with alabaster and fragments of marble from Rome. The stained glass of the E. window is of the 14th cent. Piers of polished red granite (modern) divide the nave from the N. aisle. The tower and spire are of the Welford type. Near the village is *Kelmarsh Hall*.

[1 m. N.E. of Kelmarsh Stat. (also 1 m. from Clipston Stat.) is **Arthingworth**. The *Church* of St. Andrew (restd. 1872) has a reredos of alabaster with paintings of our Lord and the Apostles executed on panels, font and pulpit of Eden stone, and some modern stained



glass. The tower is said to have been rebuilt with proceeds of a fine paid by Cromwell, whose troops are said to have been housed in the church, and damaged the fabric.

2 m. S.E. is **Harrington**. The **E. E. Church**, dedicated to SS. Peter and Paul, is cruciform, and has some ancient screen work, and two interesting 16th-cent. monuments of the Saunders family (1545 and 1588). The tower dates from 1809.]

18 m. **Market Harborough** (Stat.). (See *H.Bl.* for *Leicestershire*.)

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*The Route by Road.*

14½ m. **Clipston and Oxendon Magna** (Stat.). At **Clipston** the **Church** of All Saints is of some interest, with Norm., E. E., Dec., and Perp. portions. The arcades are E. E., the chancel Perp. The W. tower is E. E., with a Perp. spire. A *Grammar School*, free to the children of the six neighbouring parishes, and a hospital for 12 aged persons, were founded at Clipston by Sir George Buswell in 1667. The Buswells were lords of the manor of Newbold in the parish of Clipston.

**Great Oxendon**, or *Oxendon Magna*, stands on high ground, about ¾ m. N. of Clipston Stat. The **Church** of St. Helen (restd. 1847) is Dec.; and in the chancel is a monument for the Rev. John Morton, author of the 'Nat. Hist. of Northamptonshire,' published in 1712. He was rector from 1706 to 1737.

At **East Farndon**, 2 m. N.W. of Great Oxendon, in a field adjoining the *Hall*, are some considerable earthworks which seem to be British, and which Mr. M. H. Bloxam holds to have been connected with other

Proceeding N. from Northampton at 1¼ m. is **Kingsthorpe**. From here the road, running parallel to the Rly. and passing to the W. of Boughton and Pitsford, reaches Brixworth (6½ m.). It continues to Lamport (9 m.), then descending to the Rly. Stat., where it crosses the line, and ascending a hill to Maidwell (10¾ m.). From here it proceeds through undulating country to Kelmarsh (12¼ m.), and passing Clipston Stat. (14¼ m.) ascends to Great Oxendon (14¾ m.), after which the road descends to ★**Market Harborough** (17½ m.).

The main road from Northampton to Leicester also passes through the district described in this Route. Proceeding along the **Market Harborough** road as far as **Kingsthorpe** the road branches off in a N.W. direction; at 3½ m. it crosses the Rly. and passes through **Brampton Chapel**, and up **Spratton Hill** with **Spratton** on the rt. to **Great Creaton** (8 m.). From here the road proceeds to **Thornby** (11¼ m.), 2 m. W. of which is the battlefield of **Naseby** and to **Welford** (15 m.), where it crosses the river **Welland** into **Leicestershire**.

## ROUTE 5.

## NORTHAMPTON TO RUGBY, VIA ALTHORP.

(LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY. 19 m.)

Rail.	Stations.
	Northampton (Castle).
6½ m.	Althorp Park.
9½ m.	Long Buckby.
15½ m.	Kilsby and Crick.
19 m.	Rugby.

Leaving Northampton (Castle Stat.) the line, after proceeding about 2 m. N., branches off in a north-westerly direction.

At 4 m. from Northampton is **Harleston**, the Herolvestune of the Domesday Survey. On the l. of the road to Rugby are, Harleston House, belonging to Lord Spencer, now occupied by the Duchess of Grafton, the Rectory, and the Church of St. Andrew, which is of considerable interest. It was rebuilt, with the exception of the tower, during the rectorate of Richard de Hette (1292-1334), as stated, both on his tomb slab in the chancel, round which is the inscription, "Orate pro anima Ricardi de Hette qui fecit cancellam, cujus auxilio fuit ecclesia facta, anno domini mcccxx quinto," and in the very curious "journal" of Henry de Bray, one of the principal landowners here, who wrote, "Magister R. de Het instit. ad presentationem Prioris de Lenton, A.D. 1292 incipiente. Et ipse de novo fecit cancellam, A.D. 1320. Tota ecclesia facta fuit de novo temp. dicti rectoris, A.D. 1325. Rogerus de Lomelay invenit ferramenta et verruram; Henricus de Bray petram et merremium (timber). Johannes Dyve carpentriam." "Ipse Ricardus," he added, "fuit rector 42 annos." The year of Henry de

Bray's death is unknown, but it must have been after 1334. His "register," or journal, is now in the Brit. Mus.—(Lansdowne MSS. No. 761.) The church consists of tower, nave, N. and S. aisles, chancel, and S. porch. The tower is E. E., and of course part of the earlier church. The chancel retains much of de Hette's work, although there has been considerable "modernising." The sedilia and piscina, with trefoiled arches, are good and well executed. The hood-mouldings of the windows terminate in the peculiar Decorated ornament first named by the late Mr. Hartshorne, "buckle," here unusually developed. The rest of the church is somewhat later, and the aisles, with their windows, have been very little touched by "improvers." The windows are of three lights, with ogee arches, and reticulated, quatrefoiled tracery. The clerestory windows are Perp., and are either entire insertions or enlargements of the older. The porch is slightly later than the S. aisle. The font, on a modern base and with a restored cover, may be E. E. The pulpit is made up of old oak which came from Fotheringhay, and there are some fragments of Dec. glass in the windows. Under the chancel is a small crypt (with a simple groined roof), rendered necessary by the sloping of the ground. The E. window was filled with stained glass (by Burlison and Gryllse) in 1897 "to the glory of God and in memory of a good queen's reign," contains figures of H.M. the Queen



in 1837, accession, and 1897 at Westminster. The church contains some handsome monuments, but of no great interest, for the families of Andrew and Lovell (17th and 18th cents.).

6¼ m. Althorp Park (Stat.). Adjoining is **ALTHORP PARK** (Earl Spencer). This place, it need hardly be said, besides the beauty of its park scenery, has attractions of a very special character. The house (½ m. from the Stat.) contains an enormous collection of pictures, chiefly portraits of high interest.

Althorp, the "Oletorp" and "Alidetorp" of Domesday (qy., the old thorp or hamlet?) passed through Vilelestons, Lumleys, and Catesbys to John Spencer (afterwards knighted by Henry VIII.), a part in 1508 and the rest in 1512. The Spencers, who claim to be descended from Robert "le Despenser," the Conqueror's steward, passed into this county from Warwickshire, where the same Sir John Spencer became the proprietor of Wormleighton. He was a man of extreme wealth, one of those great sheepowners whose flocks, according to Sir Thomas More, "consumed, destroyed, and devoured whole fields, houses, and cities. For their masters . . . inclose all into pastures; they throw down houses, they pluck down towns, and leave nothing standing but only the church, to be made a sheep-house."—*Utopia*. Brington and Nobottle were also bought by this Sir John Spencer, whose grandson, another Sir John, seems to have been the first planter of trees at Althorp (see *post*, the Park). Althorp was not as yet the exclusive home of the Spencers; and Sir Robert Spencer, grandson of the second Sir John, was created in 1603 (first James I.) Baron Spencer (not of Althorp, but) of Wormleighton. He had, however, in the same year

received at Althorp (June 25th) Queen Anne of Denmark and her son Prince Charles, in the course of their first journey from Scotland; and it was partly as a return for the splendid hospitality then displayed (see *post*, the Park) that Sir Robert received his peerage. This first Lord Spencer lived much at Wormleighton and at Althorp. "Like the old Roman dictator from his farm," says the scandal-loving Wilson, "Spencer made the country a virtuous court, where his fields and flocks brought him more calm and happy contentment than the various and mutable dispensations of a court can contribute."—*Life of James I.* He was once, says the same writer, "speaking something in the house that their great ancestors did, which displeased Lord Arundel, and he cuts him off short, saying, 'My Lord, when these things you speak of were doing, your ancestors were keeping sheep'" (twitting him with his flocks, which he took delight in). Spencer instantly replied, "When my ancestors, as you say, were keeping sheep, your ancestors were plotting treason!" For this and the "heat" which it occasioned in the House, Lord Arundel was sent to the Tower, and at last had to make an apology. (There is a local tradition that this Lord Spencer, a great sheep-master like his progenitor, could never possess 20,000 sheep: a mortality always attacked his flocks between the nineteenth and twentieth thousand.) Of the 2nd Lord Spencer, who succeeded his father in 1627, little is recorded. He died 1636. His son, the 3rd Lord, was born at Althorp, and was the first of his family who made this place his principal home. He married Dorothy Sidney—Waller's Sacharissa—daughter of the 2nd Earl of Leicester; was created Earl of Sunderland by Charles I. (June 8th, 1643), and fell, aged 23, in

the battle of Newbury (Sept. 20) in the same year. The zeal, courage, and generosity of this 1st Earl of Sunderland are duly recorded by Clarendon. His widow survived him nearly forty years, living for some time "retired" at Althorp, where her house "was a sanctuary to the loyal sufferers and learned clergymen." She afterwards married Robert Smythe, Charles II.'s Governor of Dover Castle, and surviving him, was buried with her first husband at Brington (see *post*). During her widowhood at Althorp, Charles I. (June, 1647) was at Holdenby (see *post*) and came here to play bowls. The 2nd Earl of Sunderland was Ambassador to Madrid in 1671, and to Paris in 1674. He is the "unprincipled and faithless politician" who figures in Macaulay's History, "constant through all the vicissitudes of his life to three objects only,—to be safe, rich, and great." William III. visited him at Althorp in 1695, and "all Northamptonshire crowded to kiss the royal hand in that fine gallery which had been embellished by the pencil of Vandyke, and made classical by the Muse of Waller." (This, however, only in so far as Waller has celebrated "Sacharissa.") The 2nd Earl Spencer (d. 1834, aged 76) told Dr. Dibdin that he had talked with an old woman at Althorp who had a perfect recollection of this visit, and described the royal body-guard as she saw them with their drawn swords in the square before the house. In 1697 William was compelled to dismiss this his favourite minister, who retired to Althorp, and died here in 1702. His wife was Anne, daughter and heiress of George Digby, 2nd and last Earl of Bristol, and nearly as celebrated and remarkable as her lord. "Sure," writes the Princess Anne to her sister the Princess of Orange, "never was a couple so

well matched as she and her good husband; for as she is throughout, in all her actions, the greatest jade that ever was, so he is the subtillest, workingnest villain that is on the face of the earth." The lady professed earnest religion, but her sincerity has been doubted. She was greatly disliked by her mother-in-law "Sacharissa"; but, on the other hand, Evelyn was her friend, and in his memoirs he describes the admirable order and economy of Althorp "perfectly becoming a wise and noble person." She died in 1715. Charles, 3rd Earl of Sunderland, was distinguished from his youth for his love of learning, and collected books "while," says Macaulay, "other heirs of noble houses were inspecting patterns of steinkirks and swordknots, dangling after actresses, or betting on fighting cocks." He married, first, a daughter of the Duke of Newcastle, and second, Anne, daughter of the 1st Duke of Marlborough and the famous Duchess Sarah. He died in 1722, having been an active politician and statesman, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland at one time, and Lord President and 1st Lord of the Treasury 1718–19. His eldest surviving son became at his death 4th Earl of Sunderland; the next, Charles, owing to the deaths in the Marlborough family, became 2nd Duke of Marlborough, and also 5th Earl of Sunderland, on the death of his brother in 1729. But on his accession in 1733 to the dukedom, the Althorp property passed to his youngest brother John, the favourite grandson of Duchess Sarah, still living and powerful. She determined that both branches of the Spencer family should be wealthy; and left, accordingly, very large estates to John Spencer of Althorp, from whom the Earldom of Sunderland and the other Spencer titles had passed away. He died in 1746. His eldest son was created



Viscount and Baron Spencer; and in 1761, Earl Spencer and Viscount Althorp. His death occurred in 1783. His son, the 2nd Earl, was for some time an active statesman, but after 1807 abandoned public life, and became the collector of the famous library. The 3rd Earl was the Lord Althorp of the first Reform Bill. Frederick, the 4th Earl, was Captain in the Royal Navy. The present lord, who is the 5th Earl, succeeded his father in 1857.

Althorp is a large, but hardly an imposing mansion. Mrs. Jameson described it as "having a look of compactness and comfort without pretension," and perhaps this is as much as can fairly be said for it. The house was cased with a whitish brick by the 2nd Earl, the collector of the library; one or two portions have since been added; and in 1877 Althorp received a considerable addition and embellishment. The house has really grown out of that built by Sir John Spencer, the great sheepowner, early in the 16th cent. It contains portions of this date, and successive lords have left their marks within and about it. The great staircase, and probably the picture gallery, remain as they were planned by "Sacharissa" (1st Countess of Sunderland) during her widowhood. In order to make them she inclosed the inner court of the Tudor house; and Evelyn, after one of his visits to Sacharissa's daughter-in-law (see *ante*), describes Althorp as "a noble, uniform pile, in the shape of a half H . . . The hall is well, the staircase excellent; the rooms of state, galleries, offices, and furniture, such as may become a great prince." The house is also noticed (1669) in the Travels of Cosmo, afterwards Grand Duke of Tuscany, as "the best planned and best arranged country-seat in the kingdom; for though there may be many which surpass it in size, none

are superior to it in symmetrical elegance."

The Library formerly contained about 50,000 volumes. The first Spencerian library (that collected by the 3rd Earl of Sunderland, see *ante*) passed to Blenheim, and became the foundation of the collection there. It had been pledged to the duke, the father-in-law of Lord Spencer (as he then was) for 10,000*l.*; and when the 2nd Earl Spencer began to form his library, he found nothing at Althorp beyond the ordinary book collection of a large country house. How the "bokes" were gathered; how part of the great library of President de Thou found its way to Spencer House; how treasure after treasure—tall copies, uncut copies, unique copies—passed day by day into this vast assemblage; how Charles Lewis was busied day and night in retouching old bindings, and in decorating the rare tomes of Caxton and Wynkyn de Worde with the choicest specimens of "bibliopegistic" art—all this may be read in the pages of *Dibdin* (*Bibliotheca Spenceriana*, 4 vols., and *Ædes Althorpianae*, 2 vols., 1822). This valuable collection of books was, however, sold in 1892 to Mrs. Peter Rylands, of Manchester, who presented it to that city.

Pictures and Portraits are scattered through all the rooms at Althorp; but the most important (of the latter at least) are assembled on the staircase (which, as Evelyn wrote, is really "excellent") and in the long gallery already mentioned; "one of those enchanted scenes," writes Walpole (*Anec. of Painting*), "which a thousand circumstances of history and art endear to a pensive spectator." Of all these a fuller account must be given. The *Van Dycks*, the *Knellers*, the *Lelys*, and the *Reynolds* portraits call for special atten-

tion. The principal pictures are marked with an \*. It may first be noticed, however, that in the *hall* are several hunting pieces by *John Wootton* (circ. 1730), a once famous painter of horses and dogs. Among the figures appears conspicuously Charles, the 2nd Duke of Marlborough, who was then the owner of Althorp. A horse and a dog, by *Stubbs*, are better pictures.

\**Sofonisba Anguisciola*; portrait of herself, seated at a clavichord; a duenna at the side. This picture was bought by the famous Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, for 700 guineas—a great price at that time. On the picture is the inscription *Jussu Patris*. There are few of her works in England. At Wilton is a 'Marriage of St. Catherine' by her, and there is a portrait at Burghley (see Rte. 3). She went to Madrid on the invitation of Philip II. Born at Cremona, 1533; d. 1626. This picture, says *Waagen*, is "carefully painted in a delicate tone, with a refined feeling for nature." *Asselijn*; two very good landscapes.

*Thomas Bardwell* (d. 1773); John, 1st Earl Spencer, aged 15. *Barocci*; The Nativity. "A small but very choice picture of the master."—*Waagen*. *Fra Bartolomeo*; Virgin and Child. *Bassano*; Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes; Flagellation of Our Lord; Expulsion of the Money Changers; Our Lord bearing His Cross. *Pompeo Battoni*; Portrait of Georgiana, Countess Spencer (painted at Rome, 1763). *Mary Beale* (b. 1632, d. 1697); Portraits of Lady Howard of Escrick. Countess of Shrewsbury, whose husband fell in a duel with the 2nd Duke of Buckingham, while Lady Shrewsbury, disguised as a page, held the Duke's horse: Cowley the poet; Otway; Frances Jennings, Duchess of Tyrconnel, and sister of Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough; Nell Gwynne; and Catherine Sedley, mistress of James II., who created

her Countess of Dorchester. *Berghem*; Landscape. *Ferdinand Bol*; Hugo Grotius when a boy. *Borgognone*; a large battle-piece. *Sébastien Bourdon*; Descent from the Cross. *Charles Le Brun*; Crucifixion of St. Andrew. \**Bartholomano Bruyn*; an altar-piece with doors; an excellent picture, here wrongly assigned to Albert Dürer.

*Agostino Carracci*; a girl with kittens. *Annibale Carracci*; Virgin and Child, with two Saints. *Lodovico Carracci*; The Tribute Money; a School Mistress. \**Phillippe de Champaigne*; Portrait of Robert Arnaud d'Andilly, one of the Port Royalists. *Claude de Lorraine*; a sea-port; a Landscape. \**Joost van Cleef* (b. 1520, d. 1556); his own portrait: "Very masterly. We cannot blame him for feeling hurt that Sir A. More was preferred to him."—*Waagen*. *John Singleton Copley*; Portrait of George John, 2nd Earl Spencer (d. 1834). Under his administration, as 1st Lord of the Admiralty, were won the victories of Cape St. Vincent, Camperdown, and the Nile. He was the collector of the great Spencer Library. \**Albert Cuyp*; a calm. This very beautiful picture belonged to Duchess Sarah.

*Michael Dahl* (b. 1656, d. 1743); Portraits of Queen Anne and her son, the Duke of Gloucester; Mary, wife of Sir Richard Spencer, and her son, Sir John Spencer of Offley; another of Sir John Spencer; Sir Brocket Spencer; his wife, Lady Spencer; and Sir Richard Spencer of Offley. *Nathaniel Dance*; Earl of Jersey. *William Dobson* (b. 1610, d. 1646); Portraits of Col. John Russell, brother of the 1st Duke of Bedford; the artist himself; and Margaret Lemon, mistress of Van Dyck. *Carlo Dolci*; Marriage of St. Catherine, "Very delicately executed."—*Waagen*. *Domenichino*; a Magdalen; St. Charles Borromeo celebrating Mass.



*Allart van Everdingen*; four circular landscapes.

*Flesschier*; Portraits of Lucy Barlow or Walters, mother of the Duke of Monmouth and Charlotte De la Tremorville, Countess of Derby, the defendress of Lathom House.

*Thomas Gainsborough* (b. 1727, d. 1788); Portraits of \**Georgiana*, Duchess of Devonshire (d. 1806: daughter of John, 1st Earl Spencer); William Poyntz of Midgham, brother of *Georgiana Poyntz*, wife of 1st Earl Spencer; John, 1st Earl Spencer; *Georgina Spencer*, aged 6, afterwards Duchess of Devonshire; and *Georgina (Poyntz)*, 1st Countess Spencer. Earl (then Mr.) Spencer married Miss Poyntz privately at Althorp, the day after he came of age, Dec. 1755. "After tea, the parties necessary for the wedding stole by degrees from the company, into Lady Cowper's dressing-room, where the ceremony was performed; and they returned different ways to the company again, and joined dancing with them.")

*Artemisia Gentileschi* (d. 1642); Portrait of herself. *Marc Geeruerts*; Portraits of the \*1st Baron Spencer, of Wormleighton and Althorp (d. 1627) (see *ante*). He wears his peer's robes. Margaret, Lady Spencer (d. 1597); King James I. *Guerchino*; St. Sebastian; \*St. Luke painting the Virgin.

*Frans Hals*; Portrait of himself. *Adrian Hanneman*; Portrait of Princess Mary, daughter of Charles I. *Sir George Hayter*; Viscount Althorp, afterward 3rd Earl Spencer—the Lord Althorp of the Reform Bill. *Lucas de Heere*; \*Lady Jane Grey, perhaps the only existing portrait. *Hogarth*; View in the Green Park, 1760. *Holbein* (b. 1497, d. 1543); Portraits of John Calvin (brought at the sale of Stowe in 1848); Himself; \*Henry VIII., Princess Mary, and Will Somers, the Jester. This is pronounced by [Northamptonshire.]

Waagen, "a coarse copy from Holbein." The King and Princess are seated before a table covered with an Eastern carpet, Will Somers, standing behind, holds the Princess's pet dog. \*Henry VIII. (so-called, but Waagen suggests that it does not represent the king. It is, he adds, "finished like a miniature . . . with the most refined truth of nature"). *Thomas Hudson* (b. 1701, d. 1779; master of Reynolds); Lady *Georgiana Spencer*; John, Earl Granville; Countess Granville; Stephen Poyntz of Midgham.

*François Janet*; \*Francis, 2nd King of France, as a boy; Mary of Scotland, as his wife. (The latter is a doubtful representation of Mary.) *Cornelius Janssens*; \*Portrait of Sir Kenelm Digby (d. 1665), to the knees, in black dress, with rich falling ruff and cuffs. This picture was, it is said, greatly admired by Sir J. Reynolds.

*Angelica Kauffmann*; Children of John, 1st Earl Spencer; Margaret, Countess of Lucan. *Sir Godfrey Kneller* (b. 1648, d. 1723). There are here fifteen portraits by Kneller, of which the most interesting are those of the famous Sarah Jennings, Duchess of Marlborough, of her children, and relatives. There are \*four portraits of the Duchess, one of which shows her in youthful beauty; \*one of her mother, Mrs. Jennings, with none of her daughter's good looks; one of John, Marquis of Blandford, only son of the great Duke of Marlborough, who died when at Cambridge of the small-pox; Henrietta and Anne Churchill, daughters of the Duke and Duchess; and another of Lady Anne, who married Charles, 3rd Earl of Sunderland (see *ante*). Other Kneller portraits are those of himself, of Addison, and of Hortense Mancini, Duchesse de Mazarin.

*Sir Peter Lely* (b. 1617, d. 1680). Here are thirty-two portraits by Lely, including some of the most

noticeable of the Charles II. and Grammont beauties. Among them are Anne Hyde, Duchess of York, mother of Queen Anne; \*Anne, 2nd Countess of Sunderland (the friend of Evelyn and wife of William, 3rd Earl of Sunderland, see *ante*); Sir Peter Lely himself; \*Barbara, Lady Castlemaine, created by Charles II. Duchess of Cleveland—as a shepherdess with a crook. Burnet describes her as “enormously vicious and ravenous.” She was Clarendon’s great enemy; \*Comtesse de Grammont, sister of the famous Count Hamilton—she lived *sans reproche* at the courts of Charles II. and Louis XIV.; \*Nell Gwynne, a very striking picture, with a forest background: \*the Duchess of Portsmouth, the famous Louise de Querouaille, the most constant, favoured, and costly of the mistresses of Charles II. Evelyn notices her as “that famous beauty, but, in my opinion, of a childish, simple, and baby face”—which judgment this portrait supports. The background is especially good; \*Lady Denham, the beautiful Miss Brooks, Lady of the bedchamber to the Duchess of York; Mrs. Middleton. “La Middleton, bien faite, blonde, et blanche,” one of the early favourites of Count H. de Grammont, who thus describes her; Henry Sydney, Earl of Romney, with grey hounds—one of the six who signed the invitation to William of Orange; Queen Mary of Modena; Charles II.; \*Algernon Sydney; Anthony, Earl of Shaftesbury.

*Mirevelt*; Portrait of Fred. Henry of Orange, father of William III.; Maurice of Orange. *Sir Antonio More* (b. 1512, d. 1576); \*Philip II. of Spain, in golden armour. “A picture of great delicacy.”—*Waagen*. “His own portrait, in black dress, his hand on the head of a dog. To the knees.” *Mytens*; Henry, Earl of Southampton (d. 1624)—the patron of Shakespeare. *Mignard*; \*Duchesse

de Montansier; “one of his most pleasing and most finished pictures.” *Murillo*; Portrait of a girl, said to be an Infanta of Spain. \*Portrait of himself.

*Berneard van Orlay*; \*Anne of Cleves. “Very cleverly painted.”—*Waagen*.

*Parmigiano*; The Annunciation. *Thomas Phillips*; Portrait of Thomas Grenville; Charles, 2nd Earl Grey; George John, 2nd Earl Spencer, the Collector of the Library. *R. E. Pine*; Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, aged 16. *Sebastiano del Piombo*; Portraits of Michael Angelo and Giulio Romano. *Cornelius Poelemburg*; \*a masked ball. *Frans Pourbus*, the younger; \*Portrait, here called that of Henry, Duke of Guise, “le Balafre.” Whole-length, life-size. “This capital picture, which is warm in colouring and animated in conception, is certainly that of the son of that Duke, since Pourbus did not go to France till after the death of the Balafre.” *Gaspard Poussin*; a small landscape.

*Raphael*; \*A fragment of the cartoon of the Murder of the Innocents. “It contains the upper portion of the figure of the woman in one of the Vatican tapestries, who, full of horror, is running up a flight of steps. . . . This is without doubt a piece of the original cartoon.”—*Waagen*. \*A copy, on panel, of a Holy Family now in the Naples Gallery. *Waagen* suggests that this is the copy which, according to Vasari, was executed by Innocenzo da Imola. “The treatment and warm tone are quite his.” *Rembrandt*; \*The Circumcision; inscribed, and dated 1661. “Very spirited, and of striking effect.” \*Rembrandt’s mother; seated, in rich dress; to the knees, life-size. “The light-reddish tone of the flesh, and the very finished execution, indicate the early period of the master.”—*Waagen*. \*William III.



as a boy—a curious picture (unfinished). \*Portrait of himself. *Sir Joshua Reynolds* (b. 1723, d. 1792). There are nineteen portraits by Reynolds. The most noticeable are—*Georgiana*, 1st Countess Spencer, with her daughter, afterwards Duchess of Devonshire; \**Frances*, 1st Marchioness Camden—daughter and heiress of William Molesworth, of Wembury, Devon—a very graceful picture. \**George John*, 2nd Earl Spencer, when Lord Althorp, aged 17; and his son, the Lord Althorp of the Reform Bill, aged four. \**Georgiana*, Duchess of Devonshire; full-length, descending a garden “escalier.” This is the rival of the portrait of the same Duchess by Gainsborough. Duke of Devonshire, husband of Duchess Georgiana. *Angelica Kauffmann* (oval). His own portrait; and *Sir William Jones*, the Orientalist. (Sir William was for five years the tutor of the 2nd Earl Spencer, who formed the library. His mother, when entrusting her son to the care of (then) Mr. Jones, said, “Make him, if you can, like yourself.”) *J. Richardson*; Portrait of the 3rd Earl of Sunderland, and the 5th Earl, who became Duke of Marlborough. *G. Romney*; Countess of Cork. *Rubens*; \*The thank-offering of David on the return of the Ark. Designed for tapestry. “This sketch for a very rich composition of the master’s earlier period is in every respect one of the most skilful by him that I am acquainted with.”—*Waagen*. \*The Infante Don Ferdinand, Governor of the Netherlands, in the dress of a Cardinal. \*Portrait of Van Dyck.

*David Teniers* (the younger); two small pictures of peasant life. Pictures “in the taste of the school of the Carracci,” the best of which is the \**Death of Leander* (twice given. The larger picture is that referred to). *Titian*. There seems to be here no true picture by Titian. Two assigned to him—a young

woman, and Titian holding a mirror to a lady (differing from the Louvre picture)—are given by Waagen to *Paris Bordone*.

*Perino del Vaga* (b. 1500, d. 1547); \*Portrait of Cardinal Pole; white beard, white dress, black collar and cap, seated; to the knees. “The expressive character is strongly conceived.”—*Waagen*. *Van Dyck*; there are twenty-one pictures assigned to this master. The finest is \**George Digby*, 2nd Earl of Bristol, and William, Earl, and afterwards 1st Duke, of Bedford; both as youths. Whole-length figures, life-size. This is a celebrated picture, and one of the noblest Van Dycks in this country. The copy at Woburn is by Knapton. \*Portrait of Rubens in a black dress; life-size, standing. Inscribed, “Ant. Vandyck Eques Pt.” “A very elegant picture.”—*Waagen*. Other portraits to be noticed are—*Penelope Wriothesley*, Countess Spencer, whole-length, walking, in blue dress; *Anne Carr*, Countess of Bedford, red dress, to the knees; *Lady Elizabeth Thimbleby*, and *Catherine*, Countess of Rivers—the latter receiving a basket of flowers from a Cupid; \**William Cavendish*, Duke of Newcastle; and *Rachel Ruvigny*, Countess of Southampton, “in a kind of apotheosis.” Remark also a picture of “*Dædalus and Icarus*.” *Van Somer*; Portraits of Sir Richard and Lady Spencer of Offley.

*Robert Walker*; Portraits of General Lambert; Charles II. as a boy; \**Cromwell*; Sir Thomas Fairfax; and Henry, 1st Earl of Sunderland.

*Zuccherro*; To him are assigned the portraits of Mary of Scotland, and of her husband Darnley.

Among many portraits by *unknown artists*, one of the most interesting hangs at the top of the staircase, and represents the great Duke of Marlborough in comparative youth. It is said to have been

the favourite portrait of the Duchess, who, having before had her husband painted as the "handsomest fair man in England," arranged that this should represent him as the handsomest "brown" man. There is, in the Long Gallery, a copy by *Raeburn* of a portrait of Edmund Spenser, author of the 'Faërie Queen.' The original is at Dupplin Castle. The poet belonged (though distantly) to this family; "I exhort them," writes Gibbon, "to consider the 'Fairy Queen' as the most precious jewel of their coronet." \*An antique encaustic painting should also be noticed, "found on the wall of a sepulchral chamber near Beneventum, and cut from it in the presence of Georgiana, Countess Dowager Spencer, in 1793." The subject is a boy's head. There is at Althorp a large collection of original *Miniatures*, some by *Petitot*; and of miniature copies, by *Bone*, *Essex*, and others. There are many drawings by *H. Edridge*; and a series of chalk portraits, representing all the members of the House of Commons who voted for the first Reform Bill. The house also contains a large and fine collection of *china*.

The **Gardens** are good, but of no special character or importance. Evelyn described them as, in his day, "admirable and magnificent, furnished with the choicest fruit, and exquisitely kept. Greate plenty of oranges, and other curiosities." The flower garden at the side of the house occupies the site of a bowling green, on which King Charles, who was in the habit of riding over from Holdenby, was playing, when news was brought that a party of horse, "obscurely headed," was in sight; and the King instantly returned to Holdenby to fall into the power of Cornet Joyce (see *Holdenby*, *post*). There was, when Evelyn wrote, "a prospect from the park to Holmby

(Holdenby) house, which, being demolished in the late civil wars, shows like a Roman ruin, shaded by the trees about it, a stately, solemn, and pleasing view." This view has been shut out by the woods of successive planters, who have in most instances recorded the date of their work by tablets and inscriptions, "the only instance," says Evelyn, "I know of the like in our country." The earliest dates are 1567 and 1568; and a long walk toward Brington Church leads through a wood planted by Sir William Spencer in 1624. On the reverse of the stone which records this are the words "Up and bee doing, and God will prosper." It is interesting to compare the size and growth of the trees with the dates at which we thus know they were planted. They are for the most part beech and elm; but many venerable oaks, older than the first recorded date of planting, shade the higher part of the ground about the church of Brington. The *park* is thus throughout varied and well wooded. In it rises a picturesque *hawking stand*, built by the first Baron Spencer, with a range of round-headed windows in the upper story, and the arms of James I. and of Spencer in the gables. It has been somewhat modernised, but is still worth a visit. In the park (the exact spot is not known) Anne of Denmark and the Prince were received on their entry with a masque written by Ben Jonson. Fairies danced in a ring; and a satyr, after "a short straine with his pipe," advanced, gazing on the Queen and Prince, and exclaimed—

"That is Cyparissus face!  
And the Dame hath Syrinx grace!  
O that Pan were now in place!  
Sure they are of heavenlie race."

The queen proceeded from Althorp to Easton Neston (see Rte. 7), where she was joined by King James, who came to meet her from London.



The Church of All Saints at Great Brington (1 m. W. of Althorp Park Stat.) stands high on the hill, close outside the park, and the churchyard commands a very interesting and picturesque view over the S. and S.W. districts of Northamptonshire—a country far more broken and wooded than the valley of the Nene and its borders. From the churchyard there is a sudden descent to the N. The tower, aisles, arcade of nave, and font are all E. E., dating from the last quarter of the 13th cent. The piers on the S. side of the nave are octagonal; but each side is hollowed, so that they resemble fluted columns. Some Perp. windows have been inserted in the aisles and tower. The clerestory of nave, the chancel, and the N. chapel, are all late Perp., and were built by Sir John Spencer (the first Spencer owner), who died in 1522. The work for this period is extremely good, and there is a tradition that all this Perp. work was designed by the architect of Henry VII.'s Chapel at Westminster. A bay of five sides, with a long window in each, was added in 1846 by the 4th Earl Spencer, "to the memory of his father, mother, and brother" (the 2nd Earl and wife, and the 3rd Earl), and here the architecture was directly copied from Henry VII.'s Chapel. Many of the original open seats (circ. 1450) remain in the nave; and in a window on the S. side of the chancel is a fine fragment of Perp. glass, representing the Baptist with the Holy Lamb. The altar rails are of the 17th cent. (Laudian); and there is a tradition that Charles I., when at Holdenby, received the Holy Communion here, kneeling at the N. side. On the S. side of the nave is an *external* monumental arch, with canopy, and the effigy of an ecclesiastic, possibly that of William de Grendon, a rector who died in 1275, and who may have assisted in

the building of the E. E. edifice. The church, as might have been expected, is especially rich in *Spencer monuments*, all of which deserve attention. They are in the North, or Spencer Chapel. (1) The earliest (at the E. end, under arch), that of Sir John Spencer (d. 1522) and his wife, Isabella Graunt, is late, but pure Perp., with a very rich canopy, and effigies on an altar-tomb. He is in plate-armour, bare-headed, with a tabard charged with the Spencer arms, and an outer robe of scarlet lined with green. She wears the reticulated head-dress. On the canopy, and in the panels, there is a great display of heraldry. (2) A plain altar-tomb against the N. wall (without effigies), for Sir Wm. Spencer (son of the former) and wife. He died 1532. (3) Under the central arch, the elaborate monument of Sir John Spencer (d. 1586) and wife, Katherine, daughter of Sir Thomas Kitson of Hengrave. The design is Elizabethan, with a pyramidal pillar at each angle of the tomb, an entablature loaded with heraldry, and a moorhen, one of the ancient crests of Spencer, at one end. He is in plate-armour, with a ruff; she has an enormous hollow hood raised over her head, and is further accommodated with a kind of coverlet, rolled down to her waist. (4) In front of the N.E. window repose Sir John Spencer (d. 1599) and wife, Mary Catlin. The design is somewhat less elaborate. The lady, in black, has also a large fluted hood. (5) Under the western arch are the effigies of Robert, first Baron Spencer (d. 1627) and his wife, Margaret, daughter of Sir Francis Willoughby of Wollaton. He is in a rich suit of plate-armour, with helmet plumed and the visor up. The lady has a hood considerably larger than those of the earlier effigies, and is covered with an heraldic counterpane. (There is a tradition that this well-

protected dame was the "inventress of board wages.") The canopy of the monument should be noticed. (6) Opposite is a monument of black and white marble, for the 2nd Baron Spencer (d. 1636) and wife, Penelope Wriothsley, daughter of the 3rd Earl of Southampton. This is by Nicholas Stone, and cost 600*l.*, the largest sum received by him for any of his works. The effigies, however, were by his workmen, Hargrave and White, who got respectively 14*l.* and 15*l.* The baron is in robes of state; the lady richly dressed, with veil and ermine mantle. (7) In the S.E. angle of the chapel is a monument for Sir Edward Spencer, youngest son of Robt. Baron Spencer (d. 1655). His bust, in plate-armour with a curious allegorical design, rises out of an inscribed urn. (8) Against the E. window (built up) is a monument for John, 1st Earl Spencer (d. 1783). This is by *Nollekens*, from a design by Cipriani, and represents Benevolence "standing in the clouds," and suspending a medallion with a profile. The verses beneath are by Lord Spencer's son-in-law, the Duke of Devonshire. Below is a beautiful design by *Flaxman*, a memorial of Georgiana, wife of the 1st Earl (d. 1814). There are figures of Faith and Charity, and an inscription from *Proverbs*, "She spreadeth out her hands to the poor." In the windows of the bay, erected by the 4th Earl in 1846, are medallions of the 2nd Earl, George John, founder of the library, and of the 3rd Earl, John Charles, the Lord Althorp of the Reform Bill. Below is a *brass* with inscription for the 4th Earl, Frederick, and a bust of Sir Robert Spencer, by *Chantrey*. The heart of the 1st Earl of Sunderland, who fell at Newbury, was brought here, and his widow, Waller's "Sacharissa," was buried in this church, but there is no memorial for either earl or countess. The

whole series of monuments illustrates in a very remarkable manner the changes in the art and fashion of such memorials from the time of the first Sir John Spencer to that of the present earl.

Two records of the *Washingtons* must be noticed before leaving the church. In the chancel is a slab for Laurence Washington (d. 1616), at the foot of which are the following lines:—

"Thou that by chance or choyce of this hast sight,  
Know life to death resigns as day to night;  
But as the sunns retorne revives the day,  
So Christ shall us though turned to dust  
and clay."

This Laurence Washington was the grandson of the original Laurence Washington of Sulgrave (Mayor of Northampton and founder of the Northamptonshire family of Washington), to whom the Manor of Sulgrave was granted in 1538 and whose monument and memorials in that village are described in Rte. 8. Laurence Washington, of Brington, joined with his father (Robert W.) in migrating from Sulgrave to Brington at the beginning of the 17th cent., and in disposing of the Sulgrave estate acquired by his grandfather. He had (as his monument in Brington Church records), "8 Sonns & 9 Daughters." Two of his sons, John and Lawrence, became respectively Sir John Washington, knight, of Thrapston, who was buried at Thrapston in 1668 (see Thrapston and Islip in Rte. 2), and the Rev. Lawrence Washington, Fellow of Brasenose College, and Rector of Purleigh, in Essex, who appears in Walker's 'Sufferings of the Clergy' as having been pilloried in the infamous "Century" in 1643 for his loyalty, and who died in or before 1654. The Rector of Purleigh's eldest son, John (grandson of Laurence Washington, of Brington, and great-great-grandson of the original Laurence Washington, of



Sulgrave), emigrated to America in 1657 (accompanied or followed by a younger brother named Lawrence), and was the great-grandfather of George Washington, the President. In the nave there is also a monument to a younger brother of Laurence Washington, of Brington, named Robert, who died in the same month as his wife (Elizabeth) in 1622 "after they lived lovingly together many yeares in this parish."

In both monuments the bars and mullets ("Stars and Stripes") of the Washington arms are the same as in the church and manor-house at Sulgrave (see Rte. 8), though the monument to Robert Washington at Brington has a crescent (the mark of cadency of a second son).

The village cross stands under a large elm-tree S.W. of the church, and forms a pleasant feature in the landscape.

The picturesque and excellent *rectory* was built, circ. 1829, from the designs of *Edward Blore*.

In the hamlet of **Little Brington** is a small house built of sandstone, known as "Washington's House," the refuge afforded to the Washingtons of Sulgrave after the fall of their fortunes by their kinsman, Sir Robert Spencer, Baron Spencer of Wormleighton. There is no absolute proof that this was the house they occupied, but every circumstance points to it as the only house in which they could have resided. A stone over the door bears the inscription, "The Lord giveth, the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord. Constructa 1606," which would be quite appropriate to their changed fortunes, and, moreover, close to this house a stone sun-dial has recently been discovered, bearing the Washington arms, and R.W. 1617. The initials, doubtlessly, refer to Robert Washington, who was buried in Brington church in 1622.

The modern chapel of St. John at Little Brington was built by *Hardwicke*. There is another portion of the parish known as **Nobottle** (*botl.* = a dwelling-place, A.-S.), a name which must have been given in distinction from the "Old thorp" (Althorp) adjoining. For some unknown reason, Nobottle wood or "grove" gives name to the hundred.

Returning to the main road, at a distance of  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. beyond Althorp, a road turns rt. to (1 m.) **Holdenby** (generally called *Holmby*), the old manor-house of which place was at one time visible from Althorp. A field road leads from Althorp Park Stat. up to the village. It is of great interest, both as an example of Elizabethan domestic architecture (although half ruined and half restored), and as the place where Charles I. passed into the hands of Cornet Joyce. The site, too, is one of great beauty. "The slope of the ground, which declines from it on all sides, offers a succession of the richest and most pastoral views. . . . Like the rolling prairie of the far West, valley after valley of sunny meadows, dotted with oak and elm, undulates in ceaseless variety far as the eye can reach; but unlike the boundless prairie, deep dark copses and thick luxuriant hedgerows . . . diversify the foreground and blend the distance into a mass of woodland beauty."—*Whyte Melville* (who in his story of 'Holmby House' has illustrated all this country).

Holdenby (Aldenhesbi in Domesday) was held from the beginning of the 13th cent. by a family which took its name from the place. It passed out of the male line early in the 16th cent., and then came, through Elizabeth Holdenby, to the Hattons, one of whom she had married. Sir Christopher Hatton, Elizabeth's Lord Chancellor, was

born here in 1540, and Holdenby became his on the death of his elder brother. His representative, another Sir Christopher, sold Holdenby (1607) to the King, James I., with remainder to Charles, his second son. During the civil war the place was seized by the Parliament in common with other royal estates, and much injury, it is asserted, was done at this time to the woods. It was then sold to one Adam Baynes, of Knowsthorp, in Yorkshire, who devastated what had been left of the woods, and pulled down the main house, leaving only gateways and a portion of the offices. The crown lands were resumed at the Restoration, and Charles II. gave Holdenby to his brother James, who sold it to Lewis Duras, created Baron Holdenby, and afterwards Earl of Feversham, which titles became extinct on his death, in 1709. Holdenby was then bought by the great Duke of Marlborough, and the 3rd Duke sold it to his son-in-law, H. W. Agar Ellis, 2nd Viscount Clifden. It is now the residence of Lord Annaly.

Sir Christopher Hatton, the Chancellor, whose

"bushy beard and satin doublet  
Moved the stout heart of England's queen,  
Though Pope and Spaniard could not  
trouble it,"

built one great house in Northamptonshire, Holdenby, and purchased another, Kirby. Holdenby lay long in ruin, and only a fragment remained to be restored in 1875 and again in 1888. Kirby is still (so far as the walls are concerned) perfect, but is abandoned, and falling into decay (see Rte. 9). The Lord Chancellor esteemed Holdenby "the last and greatest monument of his youth," and, writing to Sir Thomas Heneage, in 1580, he says he had determined "to take my pilgrimage to Sir Ed. Bricknell's (*sic*, Brudenell's at

Dene) to view my house of Kirby, which I yet never surveyed, leaving my other shrine, I mean Holdenby, still unseen, until that holy saint may sit in it, to whom it is dedicated." "That Holy saint," Queen Elizabeth, never, however, visited Holdenby; and Sir Christopher Hatton himself was not, it would seem, often here, although it was in this house that he celebrated, in 1589, the marriage of his nephew and heir, Sir William Newport, who took the name of Hatton, with the daughter of Judge Gawdy. "My Lord Chancellor," writes a Captain Allen, "danced the measures at the solemnity. He left the gown in the chair, saying, 'Lie thou there, Chancellor.'" (His skill as a dancer first recommended him to the notice of the queen; but he never "led the brawls" at Stoke Poges; which place, in spite of Gray's 'Long Story,' did not belong to him. See *Sir Harris Nicholas*, 'Life and Times of Hatton,' 1847.) James I. was occasionally at Holdenby, liking the Northamptonshire hunting, for which the place was convenient; but no royal visit was so remarkable as that of Charles I., who, after his surrender of himself to the Scotch army, and his delivery to the English Parliament, was brought here virtually as a prisoner. He left Newcastle, Jan. 30, 1646-47, attended by the Parliamentary Commissioners and the few followers who were allowed him, and guarded by 900 horse and dragoons; and reached Holdenby, Feb. 15, having been somewhat retarded "by reason of white weather." Holdenby had been fixed on as "capacious, and in the heart of the kingdom," where the king could be well looked after. Hundreds of the gentry met the royal cavalcade near Harborough, the roads were thronged with spectators, and the king entered his own palace of Holdenby with all the state of royalty. As soon as



Charles was settled at Holdenby, he wrote to the Parliament, begging to be allowed the attendance of some of his chaplains, whose advice he desired to have in the discussion of questions which, as he knew, were about to be laid before him. This was refused. The Parliamentary Commissioners, among whom were the Earl of Pembroke, the Earl of Denbigh, and Lord Montagu, had their own chaplains, who preached in the chapel every Sunday, when Charles remained in seclusion, and he would not allow these Presbyterian divines to say grace at his table, but did so always himself, "standing under the state." Every mark of external respect was, however, paid to him. Two or three hours every day he gave to reading and religious exercises. He usually played chess after dinner; but his favourite recreation was bowling, and as the green at Holdenby was out of order, he sometimes rode to Althorp, where he found the "bias" not true, and so to Boughton (Lord Vaux's—see Rte. 11) for the sake of a game. There was a long walk in the garden here, which he often used, accompanied by one or more of the Commissioners, and its site is still known as "the King's Walk." Attempts were made to convey private information to him: one by Major Bosville, who, disguised as a fisherman, met the king at Brampton ford, on his way to Broughton, and another by Mrs. Cave, daughter of Wm. Cave of Stanford (see Rte. 11). Both failed. At length (June 2, 1647) the Commissioners informed the Parliament that a party of 700 horse had arrived at Kingsthorpe (close to Northampton, Rte. 1) from the army, then assembling on Trip-low Heath, and it was reported they intended seizing the king. But their letter was too late. On the same day Charles proceeded to Althorp, where he took part in a

game at bowls, and word was then brought him that an unknown party of horse was on its way to Holdenby. He at once returned. The troops, however, headed by Cornet Joyce, assembled that night on Harleston Heath, and, soon after midnight, advancing into the park, began to surround the house of Holdenby. The gates had been closed, and preparations made for defence; but the governor of Holdenby, Col. Graves, escaped secretly, believing that his own capture was one of the objects of the attack. At break of day (June 3rd), the troops from Harleston appeared, drawn up in front of the great gates of the back yard, and the soldiers in charge of the king, who were stationed there, instead of opposing, flung back the gates, and received them with open arms. They remained quiet the whole of the next day. At ten o'clock at night it was resolved, "for the peace sake of the kingdom," that the king should be removed at once. Cornet Joyce demanded an instant audience of Charles, and appeared at his bedroom door "with a cocked pistol in his hand." The king was disturbed by the noise, and refused to see him until the morning, "which being told the Cornet, he huff'd, but retired." At six in the morning the troops were drawn up in the principal court, and the king presenting himself, a conversation followed between Joyce and King Charles in the hearing of the soldiers. It ended by the king's asking for Joyce's commission, who answered, pointing to the troops, that "it lay behind him." "That," replied Charles, smiling, "is a fair and well-written commission, legible without spelling." The Commissioners protested, but resistance was idle, and the king "being seated in his coach, called into it the Earls of Pembroke and Den-

high," and the whole company at once set forth, reaching Hinchinbrook, near Huntingdon, the same evening. Holdenby was the last place at which Charles enjoyed anything like personal liberty. It has been more than once asserted that his departure was the result of a private arrangement between the king and the adjutators of the army. But this has still to be proved.

Holdenby House was, according to tradition, built by that mysterious "John of Padua," who is said to have been the architect of Longleat and of Wollaton, but of whose real doings so little is known. It was at any rate built, as Hatton writes (1579) to Lord Burghley, "in direct observation" (imitation) "of your house and plot at Tyball's" = Theobald's; and Burghley who in the same year passed a night at Holdenby in Hatton's absence, writes to Sir Christopher:—"Approaching the house, being led by a large, long, straight, fair way, I found a great magnificence in the front or front pieces of the house, and so every part answerable to oth r, to allure liking. I found no one thing of greater grace than your stately ascent from your hall to your great chamber . . . And where you were wont to say it was a young Theobalds, truly Theobalds I like as my own, but I confess . . . it no otherwise worthy in any comparison than a foil." Sir Thomas Heneage, writing in 1583, describes Holdenby as "the best and most considerate house that yet mine eyes have ever seen." "It shall hold the pre-eminence of all the modern houses I have known or heard of in England." "There is nothing pleaseth me better," he adds, "than your park, which you dispraised; your green and base court that you devised; and your garden, which is most rare." It is clear that Holdenby, in its perfection, out-rivalled both Burghley and Hat-

field. The house was of vast size, and disposed in two quadrangles, of which the foundations may still be traced. Two gateways remain, which formerly stood on each side of the quadrangle, in the front of the house. The gatehouse, which stood at right angles to these, and opposite the front door, is all gone, except foundations. From this gatehouse a noble avenue of trees stretched away toward Brampton. These arches are good examples of the half-Italian renaissance; and on both the date 1585. It was between these gateways that the troops of Cornet Joyce were found drawn up on the morning of June 3; and down the main avenue that the king departed. The present house is almost the whole of the N. side of the inner court, which contained little more than offices. It has some good chimneys, and woodwork, and has been well restored and arranged. The "King's walk" ran along the outside of the house, where the ground slopes toward the church. It formed part of the garden described by Morton in his 'Northamptonshire.' "Above the rest is especially to be noated, with what industrie and toyle of man, the garden hath been raised, levelled and formed out of a most craggie and unprofitable ground, now framed a most pleasante, sweete, and princely place, with divers walks, manie ascendings and descendings, replenished also with manie delightful trees of fruite, artificially composed arbors, and a destillery house." The house itself he calls "a very beautiful building, erected with such uniformity and so answerably contrived as for the quantity and quality is not to be matched in this land. In the hall theare are raised three peramides very high standing instead of a skryne, the midst whereof ascendeth unto the roof of the hall, and on them are depainted the armes of all the gentlemen of the same shyre, and of all the noble-



men of this land." As to how far Holdenby resembled Kirby (still remaining) in its architecture Mr. A. Hartshorne has ascertained, by careful measurements, that the same templates were used for the mouldings of the chimneys and windows of both of these houses.

The older house stood in the hollow to the S., close to the *Church* of All Saints, which is late Dec., with a chancel of E. E. character rebuilt in 1848 from a design by the late Sir Henry Dryden. The nave was restored by *Sir G. G. Scott, R.A.*, in 1868. The screen originally belonged to the great hall of the mansion. There are inscriptions at the W. end of the S. aisle, and again in the N., which are from the 'Bishops' Bible,' and have borders which may have been designed by John of Padua. Observe a very peculiar piscina, with a hollow passing upwards into the wall. There is a monument for Wm. Holdenby (d. 1490) and wife, —incised figures on a slab of alabaster; and some brass tablets with inscriptions in Latin verse for Hattons,—one for Wm. Hatton, a younger brother of Sir Christopher (Sir C. Hatton himself who died in 1591; aged 51, at his house in Ely Place, Hatton Garden, which Elizabeth forced from the Bp. of Ely, was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral). In the churchyard is a heavy marble monument for members of the Clifden family, and the monument of the late Rev. C. H. Hartshorne, and on the S. side of the tower is the tomb of Baron Alderson (d. 1857).

The country between Althorp and East Haddon (about 2 m. on the Rugby road) is pleasant, and well wooded. The *Church* of St. Mary was at first a Norm. building, but was much altered, first in the Dec., then in the Perp. period. The Dec. chancel arch rests on Norm. piers, with engaged shafts, and sculptured

capitals; and the font is Norm. with curious sculpture (the figure of a man between two birds whose heads appear under his arms). The tower was rebuilt in 1673.

1 m. N. is **Ravensthorpe**. The *Church* of St. Dionysius has a very early Dec. W. tower, some original seating, and a large and curious chest, covered with thin plates of iron crossing each other at right angles.

To the N. is **Coton**, and to the E. is **Teeton**, small villages ecclesiastically annexed to Ravensthorpe. The Teeton reservoir of 180 acres belongs to the Corporation of Northampton.

9½ m. **Long Buckby** (Stat.). The large village lies ½ m. N. The *Church* of St. Lawrence is E. E. and Dec. It was restored by *Sir G. G. Scott, R.A.*, in 1863. In 1883 and 1885 the semi-classic aisles erected in the 18th cent. were removed, and new aisles more in keeping with the church were erected. In the chancel are triple Dec. sedilia, a piscina, and an ambry. On one of the bells is the inscription in Latin—

"If at my sound you don't prepare,  
You are not inclined to come to prayer."

Near the vicarage is the site of an ancient castle, and on the Market Place stands a high coronation pole, surmounted by a cross and crown.

The manufacture of boots and shoes gives employment to a large number of hands.

2 m. N. from Long Buckby is **West Haddon**, where is a *Church* of All Saints, originally Dec., but much altered in Perp. times. The nave is unusually wide, the chancel arch lofty, and there is a large Perp. clerestory. The most interesting object in the church is the *font*, of late Norm. (almost E. E.) character,

square, with heads at the corners, and a band of sculpture between them, representing events from the life of Our Lord. From the 12th cent. this church belonged to the Priory of Daventry. There was until of late (it has now been quite removed) a large tumulus, called *Ostor Hill*; and it has been conjectured that it marked the burial-place of Publius Ostorius, Proprætor of Britain under Claudius. The place of his death is, however, quite uncertain.

15½ m. Kilsby and Crick (Stat.). Crick (*cerrig*, A.-S. = a stone, rock, crag) is 2 m. E., and the high road leading to it crosses the old line of the Watling Street, which is visible for at least half a mile in either direction. The Church of St. Margaret consists of W. tower and spire, nave and aisles, and deep chancel. The S. door, lower parts of aisle walls, two pillars and one arch, S. side of nave, are E. E.; the tower and spire show a change to Dec.; the chancel, much of the aisles, all the N. arcade and two piers and arches S. are pure flowing Dec., and of great beauty. The clerestory is Perp. The E. and other windows of the chancel, and the N. and S. chancel doors call for special attention, from their graceful design and finish. The chancel arch, wide and lofty, springs from brackets, with heads of a king and bishop. The corbels of the chancel windows are curious, and should be noticed. There are very rich sedilia and piscina. The font, a cylindrical bowl, covered with rounded figures, rests on three monsters or dwarfs. The early Dec. tower and spire are much enriched with ball-flower, and the cusping of the belfry windows is very characteristic. The arms of Astley (a cinquefoil) appear in many parts of the church. The earliest portions of the church are probably due to the Camvilles, who had much

property here, which passed (at a period before the addition of the tower) to the Astleys of Warwickshire; and to Sir Thomas Astley (living temp. Edw. II. and III.), the chancel and the portions of the same date may safely be assigned. In 1338 he founded a chantry in the parish church of Astley, which he afterwards made collegiate, and began to rebuild. The choir of Astley remains, and has all the peculiarities, even to the sections of the mouldings, to be noted in the chancel of Crick. In the nave are several 17th-cent. *brasses* to members of the Bucknell family.

Crick, it may be added, is the terminus of the "long race" of the boys of Rugby school.

Kilsby is 1 m. S. of the Stat. The Church of St. Faith is of no great interest, and was restored in 1869.

The Church of St. Mary at Barby, about 1½ m. S.W., is very late Perp.

Shortly after leaving Crick the line crosses the road from Northampton to Rugby, and reaches at

19 m. ★Rugby (Junct, Stat.) (see *H.Bk. for Warwickshire*).

#### The Route by Road.

Leaving Northampton by the W. of the town and passing Castle Stat. L. & N. W. Rly., the road turns in a N.W. direction to New Duston (2½ m.) and descends to Harlestone (4½ m.). From here it skirts Althorp Park and passes Althorp Park Stat. (6 m.). To the N.E. is Holdenby House, where Charles I. was taken prisoner by Cornet Joyce. The road continues through undulating country to West Hadden (11¼ m.) and to Crick (14 m.). 1½ m. further the road crosses Watling Street, leaves the county near Hillmorton (17¾ m.), and reaches ★Rugby (20 m.).



## ROUTE 6.

## NORTHAMPTON TO RUGBY, VIA BLISWORTH JUNCTION.

(LONDON AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY. 24½ m.)

Rail.	Stations.
	Northampton (Castle).
4¾ m.	Blisworth Junction.
11¼ m.	Weedon.
	4 m. Daventry.
	7¼ m. Braunston.
17¼ m.	Welton.
24½ m.	Rugby.

From Northampton (Castle Stat.) a short line runs to

4¾ m. ★ **Blisworth** (Junct. Stat., on the main line, with a branch line to Towcester, see Rte. 7). The village lies 1 m. S.E. The *Church* of St. John the Baptist contains a brass, with effigies of Roger Wake (d. 1403) and his wife with ten children. Near it is *Blisworth House* (Capt. E. Pennell Elmhurst). Iron-stone is much worked in the parish.

1½ m. W. from Blisworth Stat. is the village of **Gayton**. The *Church* of St. Mary is E. E. and Dec., with some interesting monuments. It has been restored, and there is much modern stained glass. The font is late Norm. with interlaced arches and a cable moulding. Under a Dec. canopy, on the N. side of the chancel, is the effigy (in oak) of (possibly) Sir Philip de Gayton (d. 1316). The effigy is cross-legged; and Sir Philip may have accompanied Edward I. on his Crusade. His son, Sir Theobald, survived him but a few days, and was the last of this family. Opposite this monument is a plain altar-tomb of Purbeck marble, which cannot be appropriated. There are also in the

chancel six ancient "miserere" seats with fine carving in oak. In the N. chapel is the tomb, with effigy, of Scholastica (d. 1354), daughter of Sir Philip de Gayton (she became co-heiress with her sister Juliana, burnt for murder of her husband), and wife of Godfrey de Meaux. The dress is a good example, and the figure resembles those of Queen Eleanor on the Northampton Cross, although it must be considerably later. On a bracket above is a small figure found in the N. wall, which is no doubt that of Mabel, daughter of Thomas de Gayton. Opposite is the altar-tomb, with effigies, of Francis Tanfield (d. 1558), and Bridget, his wife (d. 1583). He is bare-headed, and in armour. The Tanfields were lords of the manor from the latter part of the 15th cent. to 1607. There is also a monument for the Lockwoods, one of whom was sheriff in Northamptonshire in 1745. The village stands on high ground, commanding wide views. At the N. entrance of the village is a small Tudor manor-house. The way in which the projection which carries the windows, itself gabled, is placed within the main gables of the house, is picturesque and unusual. The plan in the form of a cross is also quaint.

To the W. of Gayton is **Pattishall**, or *Pateshull*, lying to the rt. of Watling Street. The *Church* of the Holy Cross has a Norm. chancel arch; the tower was rebuilt in 1663, and the church itself was practi-

cally restored in 1872. The plate was given in 1663 by Alice, Duchess of Dudley. It is silver-gilt with rich repoussé work, and forms one of six sets given by her. It is illustrated in 'The Church Plate of Northamptonshire,' by C. A. Markham, F.S.A., 1894. Three other sets are at Ashow, Ladbroke, and Kenilworth (see *H.Bk. for Warwickshire*).

To the S.W. of Pattishall and l. of Watling Street ( $3\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Towcester) is **Cold Higham**, on high ground, commanding very wide views N. and S. The *Church* of St. Luke (restd. 1881) is a plain edifice. The tower (late E. E., the lower part may be earlier) has a gabled or "pack-saddle" roof, of the same character as those at Maidford and at Thorpe Mandeville. In the S. chapel is an alabaster altar-tomb, bearing the wooden effigy (which does not belong to it) of a cross-legged knight, probably of Sir John de Pateshull (d. 1350).

Continuing by rail on the main line, the *Church* of St. Michael, at **Bugbrooke**, is seen on the rt.; it was at first Norm. (piers S. side of nave), but was rebuilt in the E. E. period, with further alterations in the Dec. period. The clerestory and other windows are Perp., and a rich Perp. rood-screen and font remain. The chancel was rebuilt in 1891, and a S. chancel aisle added. The rectory was given by William, Earl of Montain, temp. Henry I., to the Norman Abbey of Grestein.

$11\frac{1}{4}$  m. **Weedon**, or *Werdon Bec* (Junct. Stat.)—so called from the famous convent of Bec in Normandy, to which the manor anciently belonged, or *Weedon-on-the-Street*, from its position on the line of the Watling Street—is best known from the military depôt and barracks established here in 1803 (after the

declaration of war with the French Republic) for the Ordnance Department, nearly in the centre of England, as far from the sea as possible, at a time when an invasion from France was not unexpected. The position is open and healthy, and its many advantages have always been appreciated. The barracks are conspicuous in all distant views across the country. The government possesses an estate at Weedon of about 125 acres. There are barracks for 500 men and 200 horses; armoury, storehouses, and magazines, capable of containing 800,000 stand of small arms, besides field ordnance and ammunition,—a hospital and workshops. The barracks stand high above the river Nene, which here winds through broad, marshy meadows, much overflowed in the winter. On either side of the river the hills rise into a much broken country, on the border of the most picturesque part of Northamptonshire.

The village of Weedon—"a praty thorough fare," says Leland, "sette on a playne ground, and much celebrat d by cariers, bycause it stondeth hard by the famos way there comunely caullid of the people Wathe-ling Street"—is small and indifferent, consisting mainly of one long street, which rises toward the Rly. Stat. There was here a palace or villa much favoured by the Mercian kings, which, toward the end of the 7th cent., was converted by Etheldred of Mercia into a religious house. Etheldred was the uncle of Werburgh, daughter of Wulfere, king of Mercia and of Ermenilde; whose mother, Sexburgh, was the daughter of Anna, king of the East Anglians. Ermenilde and Werburgh both took the veil in the convent at Ely, over which Etheldrythe or Etheldreda, sister of Sexburgh, was then presiding. St. Werburgh was afterwards chosen as abbess, or, at least, directress, of the four monasteries of



Trentham and Hanbury in Staffordshire, Repton in Derbyshire, and this of Weedon. Here she spent much of her time; and it was here that she performed the famous miracle by which she drove from the corn-fields all the wild geese which frequented them. Thus Drayton ("Polyolbion") tells how the river Nene—

"Falleth in her way with Weedon, where,  
'tis said,

St. Werburgh, princely born, a most religious maid,

From these peculiar fields, by prayer, the wild-fowl drove."

Alnoth, her steward or bailiff, who became himself a saint (see Stowe, *post*), caused all the geese to assemble within the grange. Werburgh ordered them to take flight, and never more to appear at Weedon. They obeyed; but kept hovering round until one of their companions, who had been killed and eaten, was restored to them safe and sound. "The vulgar superstition," according to Bridges, "now observes that no wild geese are ever seen to settle and graze in Weedon Field." St. Werburgh was buried at Hanbury, but her relics were afterwards, for fear of the Northmen, carried within the walls of Chester, where she became the great patroness of the monastery, the church of which is now the cathedral. At Weedon there was a chapel dedicated to St. Werburgh on the S. side of the churchyard. The *Church* of St. Peter is modern except the tower, the lower part of which is Norm., the upper Trans. Some fragments of grotesque sculpture from the former building are placed at the end of the S. aisle. The Watling Street crossed the Nene near the church.

The *Church* of St. Mary at Great Everdon, 4 m. S.W., has a good late Dec. portal, much enriched.

2 m. S. of Weedon, standing on high ground, is **Stowe**, usually known as *Stowe-Nine-Churches*, for some reason which has not been clearly explained, although the fact that according to the inquisition after the death of Catherine Dudley, temp. Henry VII., there were nine advowsons appendant to the manor, may throw some light on the matter. The local tradition asserts that attempts were made to build the church on nine different sites. But the stones were always displaced at night, and a man set to watch declared that it was done by "summet bigger nor a hog." The ninth choice was fortunate. The Towcester road is followed as far as a turning, rt., at the top of the hill; the by-road then entered leads to the church. This road passes along very high ground, and the views from it, N. and E., are wide and fine. Great Brington (Rte. 5), on its hill, is very conspicuous, and Northampton in the distance beyond it. The country here shows as a richly-wooded district, and is pleasant and attractive. Stowe itself, of which the name sufficiently indicates the antiquity, is placed a little to the W. of Watling Street, the course of which is marked by many such early foundations. At the time of the Domesday survey the manor belonged to Gilbert of Gaunt, nephew of the Conqueror. The fee continued in the hands of his descendants until 1307; but the manor had been granted to the family of Armenters before the close of the 12th cent. It passed *circa* 1300 to Alice, half-sister and heiress of John de Armenters, and wife of Sir Gerard de Lisle, and afterwards of Lord Segrave. From the Lisles the manor passed by marriage to Lord Berkeley, temp. Edward III., whose daughter and heiress was the first wife of Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, by whom she had three daughters, co-heiresses. Stowe

fell to the lot of the younger sister, wife of George Neville, Lord Latimer of Corby. Two Lord Latimers succeeded; and Stowe then passed by marriage to the family of Danvers. So it came to the Whartons; and in 1716 the three manors of Stowe Magna, Parva, and Nine-Churches were sold to the executors of Dr. Thomas Turner, late President of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, in trust for the "Governors of the Charity for the relief of Widows and Orphans of the Clergy" (Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy, established 1678). The Charity still holds them. This sketch will better explain the monuments and memorials in the church.

The position of the *Church*, dedicated to St. Michael, is one of much quiet beauty. It stands on a lofty mound, sloping toward a green hollow, where are many fine trees. Beyond are low hills and woods, between which are seen the roofs of scattered farm-houses. The church was restored, and the chancel rebuilt in 1860. It is much to be deplored that the fine Jacobean reredos, screen, and old oak seats with acorn ends were taken away at this period. The reredos is now fixed to the S. wall of the vestry—the portion of the screen which survives is fixed to the N. wall of the baptistery. Much of the old oak and a good specimen of the Royal Arms are now in the rectory barn, and the rector allows them to be seen by any who are interested in old church fittings. The edifice consists of western tower, nave, N. and S. aisles, chancel, and aisles ranging with it eastward, and opening by two bays N. and S. The tower is probably older than the Conquest, though it has none of the remarkable work which distinguishes Brixworth or the earlier churches (Barton, Barnack, Wittering) on the eastern side of the county. There is, however, long-

and-short work visible *outside* the tower. It is lofty and very massive, without buttresses, and has been bound with iron for safety. Half-way up, on the W. side, is a window splayed externally. (The uppermost part of the tower is an addition.) *Within*, a tall, narrow, round-headed portal opens to the nave. A shaft (once continuous?) rises on either side of the portal to a plain, square abacus, from which is carried a narrow projecting rib, enclosing a sort of tympanum above the doorway. A doorway at the end of the N. aisle may be of the same date as the tower. That a very early church existed here is shown by the remains of sculptured crosses, some of which have plait-work, found during the restoration, and now placed in the N. aisle. When the church was restored the foundations of an old Saxon church were discovered by the late Sir Henry Dryden, just W. of the present pulpit. In 1895 the present rector (Rev. H. H. Crawley), while having the foundations of the tower examined, came upon a large worked stone with rude figures on the face of it, about 2 ft. below the ground and about 2 ft. W. of the tower. This stone is now lying in the churchyard close to the tower, and is worthy of the attention of the antiquary. There is also in the churchyard a similar stone, lying under one of the big lime trees. Both are supposed to be of Norm. origin. The main arcade is early Dec., and the chancel is of similar character. The *monuments* alone will repay the visitor. On the N. side of the chancel is the very fine effigy of a knight, temp. Henry III. He is in chain-mail, with a long, open cyclas or surcoat, and shield on l. arm. The legs are crossed. The rt. hand is on the breast. The effigy is in Purbeck marble. It has been little injured (thanks to the hardness of the stone); and the



sculpture and design are unusually good. The tomb on which it is placed bears the shield of Lisle. It is probably that of Sir Gerard de l'Isle. Opposite, on the S. side, is a monument, which Pennant has absurdly styled "the most elegant tomb that this or any other kingdom can boast of." It is justly celebrated; but many will much prefer the severer dignity of the Armenter effigy. This monument is for Elizabeth, fourth daughter and co-heiress of John, Lord Latimer, and wife successively of Sir John Danvers and Sir Edmund Carey. It is the work of the sculptor *Nicholas Stone*—called "Master Mason" to James I. and Charles I. (born 1586, died 1647). His pocket-books were in the hands of Vertue, the engraver, and the following entry occurs in one of them:—"The 16th of March, 1617, I undertoke to mak a tombe for my Lady, mother to my Lord D'avers, which was all of whit marbell and touch, and I set it up at Stow of the Nine Chirches, in Northampton, some 2 year after, one allter tomb for the wich I had 220 li." (Touch, or *pierre de touche*, was the name given to any black stone used for the touching and trying of gold. Statuaries bestowed it on all the black marbles because they were sometimes used for that purpose.) The monument was made and set up ten years before the death of the "Lady Carey"—who was buried here in 1630 (aged 84). The effigy is in white marble, and the lady is represented as sleeping, her rt. hand laid on the breast, her l. clasping the ermine-lined robe. The dress is flowing, the stomacher and the pillow on which the head rests richly embroidered. A kerchief is folded round the head. At her feet is a griffin. The slab on which the effigy rests is of "touch," as are the panels on the sides of the tomb. These panels bear inscriptions on white marble, and there are shields

[Northamptonshire.]

of arms between them. The sculptor has quite thrown off the restraint of the earlier models, but it is worth notice that the position of the hands is nearly the same in the two effigies, of such very different periods, here placed opposite one another. This curious resemblance can only be accidental.

Against the N. wall of the N. aisle is the elaborate monument of Dr. Thomas Turner, President of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, where he was buried in 1714. This is by *Stayner*. Dr. Turner appears "standing on a terrestrial globe in his Master of Arts gown," attended by Religion, who stands on a celestial globe, and holds a Cross in her l. hand, and in her rt. a small temple with a Greek inscription. The Dr. himself holds a book (the Bible) with the words (in the original) "Guard that which is committed to thy trust" (1 Tim. vi. 20). A radiated eye in clouds is seen above, and there are long inscriptions recording the learning and excellence of Thomas Turner. (For his connection with Stowe, see *ante*.) He was brother of the nonjuror, Francis Turner, Bishop of Ely, but, although he also was a nonjuror, he retained all his preferments. In 1702, the last year allowed for taking the oaths to William and Mary, he left London, July 28th, and went to Oxford, with a full resolution to sacrifice everything on the 1st of August, the last possible day. He made, however, no resignation, considering that his refusal to take the oaths would amount to deprivation. "Whether he was forgotten, or whether the omission was winked at, does not appear; but he retained all his benefices to his dying day."

In this church were preserved the relics of St. Alnoth, "bailiff" of St. Werburgh at Weedon. After her death he lived here as a hermit, and was at last killed by robbers

The Manor House, now a farmhouse, was on the S. side of the churchyard. In the dining-room the Jacobean panelling is good, and in the centre of the chimneypiece is a coat-of-arms, probably that of Lady Danvers.

In the rectory house are one or two old friezes, which are evidently part of the old 17th cent. house. The old glebe farmhouse, now called the rectory cottage, has an old stone in the S. gable, which has the date June 10th, 1611, upon it. In the village are one or two houses with small projecting oriels. They are, perhaps, Elizabethan.

1 m. E. of Weedon is *Flore* (in Domesday *Flora*, compare the Northern *Fleurs*. The word seems Teutonic, and may signify a level tract), adjoining the road to Northampton. The Church of All Saints is mainly E. E., with an arcade of clustered attached shafts. Two of the caps on the N. side are enriched with foliage. The western tower is open to the nave, and also to the N. and S. aisles. Its side arches have no caps, or imposts, the moulding running continuously from the ground. The tower itself, and these arches, are Dec. The font is a plain barrel, raised on a modern base. The chancel, E. E., was restored in 1867, and in 1893 a new carved oak reredos with side-panelling was erected. In the S. wall are a double-arched piscina and a sedile. In the N. wall is a singular low recess, almost close to the ground, perhaps designed for the Easter sepulchre. The windows are Dec. and Perp., and a tolerably good Perp. chancel-screen remains, with a corbelled staircase projecting on the N. side, between the chancel and the chancel-arch. (Compare the screen at Ashby St. Ledgers, *post.*) In the chancel is a small *brass* for Henry Michell (d. 1410) and wife. He is in armour,

the long sword (two-handed?) hanging in front, straight between his feet. His hands are clasped above. There is also a *brass* for Thomas Knaresburgh (d. 1498) and wife. The chancel-roof is modern. The S. door is E. E. with dog-tooth ornament. The tower (late Dec.) is very massive, with buttresses set angularly. The church belonged, until the Dissolution, to Merton Priory, in Surrey. Adjoining the church is *Flore House* (Major Apsley Smith, R.A.). The River Nene runs at about a quarter of a mile distance from the church on the S. side. The land between them is called the "Lakes," because it is often flooded in the winter, but it is said to be "one of the finest" pieces of old pasture in the county.

About 1 m. from the village, on the way to Brockhall, is *Flore Fields*, the residence of W. Rhodes, Esq.

1½ m. S.E. of *Flore* is **Nether or Lower Heyford**, where the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul is mainly E. E., but has Dec. and Perp. additions. The chancel is Dec., and on the S. door is an original iron cross, with a ring of cable-form depending from the centre. At the E. end of the S. aisle is the mural monument (coloured), with many inscriptions, of Francis Morgan, made Justice of the King's Bench, 1558, in which year he died. This is *not* the Judge Morgan who pronounced sentence of death on Lady Jane Grey, "soon after which he is said to have gone mad, crying out in his fits, 'Take away this Lady Jane from me;' and in the distraction he ended his life." That was Sir Richard Morgan, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. Bridges confounded the two. Here is also an altar-tomb, with *brasses*, for Sir Walter Mauntell (d. 1467) and his wife. His armour is a good example. Nether Heyford is about



1½ m. from the Watling Street. An important Roman pavement and other remains were found here in 1699 at a place called Horestone Meadows. They are described by Morton ('Nat. Hist. of Northants'), and seem to have belonged to a considerable villa. The tesserae of the pavement, which filled two carts, were used towards the end of the last cent. for repairing the roads—a fate which has befallen many a finer relic.

John Preston, a very eminent Puritan divine, and a popular teacher, called by Fuller "the greatest pupil-monger in England in man's memory," was born at Heyford in 1587. He died at Fawsley in 1628.

A branch line from Weedon Stat. to Leamington passes, about 1 m., Dodford on the l. The place is named from a ford across a feeder of the Nene—whether also, as Fuller suggests, "from *Dods*, water-weeds, commonly called by children cat's-tails, growing thereabouts"—may be left uncertain. Dodford formed a portion of the manor or barony of Keynes, which ranged over much of this part of Northamptonshire. It continued in the house of Keynes (or Cahaigues) from the Conquest to Edward III., and then descended by marriage to Ayotes, Cressys, and others. The Church of St. Mary is E. E. (north aisle) and Dec. The chancel was rebuilt in 1850. In the N. chapel are some monuments. On the S. side is the effigy of Sir William Keynes (d. 1344), whose burial here is recorded. The mail armour which he wears is banded—that is, the rings are set edgeways, each row in succession lying alternately l. and rt. The interstice between each row was apparently designed to render the whole more flexible. Examples of this armour are ex-

tremely rare. The shield bears the arms of Keynes. The legs are crossed. Under an arched recess in the N. wall are two altar-tombs, one beyond the other. On the inner tomb is the shattered wooden effigy of a lady, wearing veil and wimple. This probably represents Hawise (living 1329), mother of the last Sir Robert de Keynes. The outer tomb is probably that of her great-granddaughter Wentiliana, who died in 1376. The effigy is in stone. There is no wimple, and the veil is confined by a fillet. The front of the tomb is divided by panels into compartments, containing small figures of "weepers." There are no arms or inscriptions. On the S. side (E. end) is a fine altar-tomb of alabaster for Sir John Cressy, died 1444, at Tove, in Lorraine. He had been captain of Lisieux, Orbes, and Pontiesque in Normandy, and one of the King's (Henry VI.) council in France. He is bare-headed, in a very rich suit of plate-armour, with collar of SS. On the hilt of his sword are the letters I.H.S. There are small headless figures, and angels holding shields, on the sides of the tomb. There are many monuments of later date for Wyrleys, Bensons, and others, lords of the manor; besides *brasses* for William Wylde (d. 1422) and wife; and John Cressy (d. 1414) and wife—both good examples. It may be noticed that a portion of the manor belonged at one time to the Colleys, one of whom married Caius Gabriel Cibber, of London, "sculptor," and thus became the mother of Colley Cibber, George II.'s poet Laureate.

Newnham, 3½ m. W. from Weedon Stat., lies on the S. side of a range of low hills adjoining, l., the road to Daventry. The country here is pleasantly broken, and the village green of Newnham is picturesque with fine elm-trees. The Church of

St. Michael (a chapelry attached to Badby, see *post*) stands on a hillock, whence the ground slopes steeply away E. towards a small stream. The main arcade is E. E. (N. side) and early Dec. (S.). On the N. side is a transitional portal, now enclosed in the vestry. The chancel is Dec., with good windows, the lower part of one on the S. side being formed into a sedile in an unusual manner. The W. tower, with a low spire, is Perp., and stands on three open arches, so that the lower story forms a porch. A groined niche over the western arch contained a figure of the Virgin, to whom the church is dedicated. A niche for the sanctus bell remains at the E. gable of the nave roof.

Thomas Randolph, poet and dramatist, one of the "sons" of Ben Jonson, and one of those who met at the "Mermaid," was born here in 1605. He died in 1635.

4 m. ★ **Daventry** (Stat.), generally called *Daintry*. The etymology of Daventry is quite uncertain, and that which has been proposed—"Dwy Avon tre"—= the "town of the two Avons," from the position of Borough Hill between two branches of the Nene (called also Avon)—is hardly tenable; since the British "tre" never occurs as a suffix. The long, straggling town is of considerable antiquity, but contains at present absolutely nothing to interest the stranger. The *Church* of the Holy Cross was rebuilt in 1752, "in the Grecian or Doric style." There was a Cluniac priory here, founded about 1090 by Hugh de Leycestre, sometimes called "Hugo Vicecomes," although he was not apparently the sheriff of Northamptonshire. It was one of those dissolved by Cardinal Wolsey, for the sake of applying their revenues to the support of his new Colleges at Ipswich and Oxford. The last frag-

ments of its buildings were taken down in 1824, and the National School was erected on the site, which is near the W. end of the church. Daventry is said to have received its first charter from King John, and evidence goes to show that the town was a borough before the grant of its present earliest existing charter; but this is only traditional; and the earliest existing charter of the borough was granted by Elizabeth. There is no doubt, however, that a town existed here from a very early period, although there is no evidence that it was in any way connected with the Roman and Brito-Roman foundations on and below Borough Hill. Daventry was an important town in the county of Northampton in the Middle Ages. In 1361 it was one of the seven places in the county called upon to furnish armed men for the expedition to France. It was also mentioned by Shakespeare, 'Henry IV.,' act iv., scene ii. During the Civil War, Daventry and its neighbourhood were the scenes of frequent military operations. On the 16th of Feb., 1644-5, Sir William and Sir Charles Compton, brothers of the Earl of Northampton, routed near this place 400 of the Parliamentary horse from Northampton. On the 31st of May following, Charles I., having taken Leicester by storm, marched towards Oxford, which was then besieged, and (June 7th) reached Daventry, where he fixed his headquarters, and slept at the "Wheatsheaf" six nights. His army consisted of about 10,000 men; of whom the infantry were stationed in Daventry field (then unenclosed), the cavalry at Staverton and the adjacent villages. On the 12th of June a skirmishing party of Fairfax's horse took some prisoners; and an alarm being given to the King, who was hunting a buck at Fawsley, within 2 m. of Daventry, the whole army encamped on Borough Hill,



and stood under arms all night. Thence they retreated northward. (For a full detail of these movements, which immediately preceded the battle of Naseby, see Rte. 4.) It is said that Charles had been warned at Daventry "by the apparition of Lord Strafford in a dream," who told him by no means to fight the army of the Parliament then at Northampton, "for there was one in it whom he should never conquer by arms." The vision returned on the following night, and the King was assured "that if he kept his resolution of fighting he was undone." . . . "He was often afterwards heard to say that he wished he had taken the warning, and not fought at Naseby." (The story comes from the MS. narrative of a Mr. Savage, entitled 'Coritani Lachrymantes,' and is printed in Baker, i. 325.)

General Lambert, after the death of Cromwell, was one of the leading members of the military council, called the "Wallingford Cabal." He opposed the entrance of General Monk with his Scottish army into England; and after the Long Parliament, under Monk's influence, had been dissolved, and the question of the King's return was pressing, Lambert attempted to collect the scattered regiments, and made Daventry one of the places of rendezvous. His object was certainly to resist the restoration of Charles; more than this is unknown. He appeared himself at Daventry with six troops of horse. Troops were marched against him from Northampton. The two bodies encountered; but Lambert's men would not fight. Lambert himself rode off at full speed, followed by Colonel Ingoldsby, who came up with him (according to the local tradition) on Staverton field, and made him prisoner in spite of his appeal, "What good will my life or imprisonment do to you?" Lambert was conveyed to London, and was condemned to perpetual imprisonment;

which he underwent partly in Guernsey, and partly on St. Nicholas Island, in Plymouth Sound, where he died in the winter of 1683. The roads were full of troops flocking to join him at the time of his defeat; but not a blow was struck afterwards. This was the last "struggle of the interregnum."

In the old coaching days thirty-nine coaches passed through the town daily, most of them changing horses here.

There is an ancient Grammar School, founded by William Parker, in 1576, and now in a flourishing condition. Joseph Priestley, the discoverer of oxygen, was educated at the Dissenting Academy here (see *H. Bk. for Warwickshire*). The mezzotint engraver, John Smith, was born at Daventry in 1652, and died in 1743 at Northampton, where he was buried in St. Peter's Church (see Rte. 1).

Although Daventry itself is a place of little interest, the visitor will find his account in climbing to the top of *Borough Hill*, which overhangs the town on the E. The highest point is 658 feet above sea-level. The view from it is of great extent, and very fine; and the entrenchments on the hill, greatly injured as they have been, are still of much interest. Borough (the name indicates that the fortification of the hill had been recognised, and probably made of service, by the first English settlers) was, no doubt, one of those British entrenchments which were adopted by Roman conquerors, and somewhat altered by them. It has been looked upon as the "lofty entrenchment inaccessible to cavalry," within which the Iceni and confederate tribes had posted themselves when they were attacked and defeated by Ostorius Scapula, A.D. 51. This is, at least, doubtful; but in all probability it represents the Beneventa or Bannavanta of the Antonine Itine-

raries (ii. and viii.), which is placed midway between Venonis (High Cross in Leicestershire) and Lactodorum (Towcester). It is certain that the Borough Camp was an important Roman station, and explorations made at its N.W. angle by Baker, the historian, in 1823, and in 1852 by Mr. Botfield, brought to light the foundations of the Prætorium (or at least of some very extensive building), with hypocaust, baths, and tessellated pavements. The entrenchments, when perfect, had a circumference of rather more than  $2\frac{1}{4}$  m., and the camp has thus been fairly called one of the largest, if not quite the largest, in England. They followed the irregular outline of the hill; and the trenches varied in number at different points, according as the form of the ground called for more or less protection. The general outline was that of a long parallelogram, narrowing towards the N.W. corner. The whole area enclosed was about 150 acres. This N.W. corner was the strongest portion, and was cut off from the rest of the camp by lofty double valla. Close within these stood the Roman building which has been called the Prætorium. Within the ditch on the E. side, and adjoining the farmyard there, is a spring called Spelwell. Lesser dykes crossed the great camp, or made enclosures within it; and toward the centre of the area was a group of eighteen tumuli, of various sizes. Many of these were opened by Baker, and were found to contain urns and pottery of different dates, some Brito-Roman, and others probably earlier. (Some of these urns are now in the Museum at Northampton.) Since the enclosure of "Daventry Field," and the division of the hill by hedges, the lines of entrenchment have been gradually effaced, and in some parts they have disappeared altogether. The tumuli have suffered in the same manner and a small square

entrenchment on the S.E. side of the hill, noticed by Morton, is now barely discernible. But the site alone is sufficiently noticeable; and no one can climb to that commanding summit, "and survey the various lesser hills that rise below him on every side, without being convinced that so sovereign a position must have been occupied from the earliest period of military speculation and defence." The line of the Watling Street may be uninterruptedly traced for many miles in each direction, "and at intervals, 45 m. by the itinerary of Antoninus, from Lactodorum (Towcester) to Manduessedon (Manceter, in Warwickshire), the camp at Olderbury near that station being visible on a clear day." (A branch from the Watling Street at Weedon seems to have passed to Borough Hill itself; and the Portway, an ancient road traversing Northants and Oxfordshire, ran not far from the hill, toward Preston Capes, where its line is marked by some entrenchments. The Portlow Hills, at Kilsby, 5 m. N. of Daventry, retain the name of that old road.) The great camp of Arbury Hill, near Badby (see Rte. 8), is visible from the southern point of the hill; as is Castle Dykes, near Farthingstone. The field of Naseby is seen N., and in the same direction, but nearer, Holdenby House, where Charles was seized by Cornet Joyce. Northampton and the depôt at Weedon are conspicuous; and rising from the great central plain of England, of which these tossed hills form the eastern boundary, appear the spires of Coventry. The scene on a clear day, or when shadow chases sun-gleams into the far distance, is one to be remembered, not only for its own beauty, but for the wide-reaching historical interests and associations which it suggests. Before the enclosure of the hill, in 1805, the circuit of the camp was used as a race-course.

Below the hill, and conspicuous



in the landscape, are two large reservoirs, belonging to the Grand Junction Canal Company; one of which covers  $117\frac{1}{2}$  acres, and is 35 ft. deep when full; the other covers  $35\frac{1}{2}$  acres, and is 26 ft. deep. These reservoirs, often very picturesquely placed, and special features in the landscape, are frequent on the S.W. border of Northamptonshire, in connection with the Grand Junction and the Oxford canals, which meet at Braunston,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Daventry. The Braunston Tunnel, through which the Grand Junction passes, is 2042 yards in length. This canal runs to Blisworth, and so into Buckinghamshire. The Oxford Canal passes from Oxford to Birmingham. The "middle lias," or "marlstone," in which the reservoirs are formed, is rich in springs of water. On it rest the clays and rocks of the Upper Lias, and above them the Inferior Oolite beds of Northampton sand. This great liassic and oolitic belt stretches across England from the Dorsetshire coast to the N.E. coast of Yorkshire. The peculiar outline of all this part of Northamptonshire, with sudden steep descents and narrow valleys, is due to this formation.

On the S. side of Borough Hill, and closely adjoining the Weedon Road, is the place known as *Burnt Walls*, so called ever since the old Roman town of *Isannavaria* was burnt by the Saxons, a field of about six acres, covered with what seem to be foundations of ruined buildings. According to Morton, there was a tradition that a "house or castle of John of Gaunt" stood here. But the name "ad brende wallis" occurs in 1253, in an agreement between Robert Fitzwaller and the Prior of Daventry, indicating that the buildings, whatever they may have been, had been destroyed by fire. The whole area of the field is marked by great inequalities.

"Loads of stone of ruined walls and foundations have been digged up here," says Morton, whose 'Nat. Hist. of Northants' was published in 1712; and Baker asserts that across the road, Roman bricks and tiles have been discovered. It has been conjectured that this was the site of a town named *Isannavaria* or *Isannavatia*, mentioned in the 6th Iter of Antoninus, and which the distances in miles seem to confound with Beneventa. A field called Great Shawney in the adjoining parish of Norton has also been regarded as the site of *Isannavaria*, of which name "Shawney" may be a lingering trace. However this may be, it has been held that the "Isanna" is connected with the Aryan root of the word "iron," and that the town of *Isannavaria*, rising so near Beneventa, was either the great iron depôt or the iron factory of the district. That the Romans worked the iron-stone of Northamptonshire is known; but the fact that no traces of smelting-houses or heaps of iron scorïæ have been found here, seems to make such an explanation of the name, and of the rise of the town, somewhat uncertain.

2 m. S.W. of Daventry is *Staverton*, where the *Church*, dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin (restd. 1884), is worth notice. According to a deed still in existence, there was a church here in the 7th of Henry II. (1161), and there are still E. E. portions remaining at the W. end of the N. aisle and elsewhere, but the whole was nearly rebuilt in the Dec. period, to which the present chancel belongs. The arches of the main arcade (early Dec.) are unusually narrow; whilst three arches, apparently of the same date, separate the chancel from the N. aisle. This aisle projects eastward parallel with the chancel. The eastern bay of this aisle is the traditional lady-

chapel, and is perhaps somewhat later than the rest of the aisle. The E. window is Dec. N. is a corbelled bracket with foliage, and a rich canopy above it. S. is a moulded ledge with ball-flower ornament, such as might have carried a group of figures. In the wall between aisle and chancel are sedilia, piscina, and a hagioscope. Against the N. wall is a small Elizabethan monument, with a *brass* for Thomas Wylmer (d. 1580). The aisle roof is Dec. At the E. end of the S. wall of the nave is a very large and lofty 3-light Perp. window. The W. tower is Perp. with fine belfry windows, transomed. There are Perp. N. and S. porches.

$7\frac{1}{4}$  m. Braunston (Stat.). The village stands picturesquely on high ground. The *Church* of All Saints was entirely rebuilt in 1849 (R. C. Hussey, architect). It is of Dec. character. In it is an effigy (removed from the old building) in grey marble, cross-legged, and perhaps that of a De Ros, about 1270. The family of De Ros or Roos held the manor from the reign of John to 1508, when it passed to female heiresses.

The Rly. leaves Northamptonshire and proceeds to Leamington and Warwick.

Starting again from Weedon Stat., the main line soon passes rt. *Brockhall Hall*, the seat of T. W. Thornton, Esq., J. P., standing in a very picturesque park. The manor for some time belonged to the Eytons, who may have built the house, which is partly Jacobean, but has been much altered and added to. It contains some *portraits*; among which is one which, without any certainty, has been regarded as that of Robert Catesby, the conspirator (see *post*, Ashby St. Ledgers). The little *Church* of St. Peter of Brockhall has Norm.

and E. E. portions. The chancel has been almost rebuilt since 1840.

After passing the woods of Brockhall, Norton is seen on the l. *Norton Hall* (Mrs. Seymour) was long the residence of Beriah Botfield, Esq. (d. 1863), a well-known antiquary and lover of books. It at one time belonged to the Knightleys, and the present house seems to have been built by Sir Richard Knightley, who, after 1588, made it his principal residence. It was much altered by the Botfields. The *Church* of All Saints is Dec. and Perp.; but is chiefly interesting from its monuments. In the S. aisle is an elaborate altar-tomb, with rich canopy, for Lady Elizabeth Seymour, second wife of Sir Richard Knightley, and fourth daughter of the Protector Somerset. Her effigy (she died 1602) is richly dressed and coloured. (Sir Richard was buried at Fawsley, see *ante*.) In front of the tomb are tablets with verses, recording the lady's merits:—

“ Whose praises, while the sun and moon do shine,  
By tract of time shall never be contriv'd.”

In the N. aisle is a mural monument, with small figure, for Elizabeth Verney (d. 1633). In the chancel is a tablet for Dudley Knightley (d. 1602, from the effect of a musket shot at the siege of Ostend). There are many other monuments of later date; and a small *brass* for William Knight (d. 1506) and wife.

The little *Church* of St. Andrew at Whilton,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. rt. of the rly., was originally E. E., but has been nearly rebuilt.

$17\frac{1}{4}$  m. Welton (Stat.). The village is 2 m. S.W. The *Church* of St. Martin is a Perp. edifice restored in 1867.

The village of Watford is  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.E. of Welton Stat. The *Church*



of St. Peter and St. Paul is early Dec., except the chancel and tower, which are Perp. The chancel is unusually long, with three large Perp. windows on the S. side. On the N. an arch, now closed, opened to a chantry, used as a vestry. Eastward of this arch is the arch of a very rich Dec. tomb, with elaborate mouldings; either a founder's tomb or an Easter sepulchre. This tomb was open to the chantry N. This chantry is early Dec., like the nave; but in the N. wall are three tomb-recesses of late Dec. character, with rich finials. The S. porch retains the dog-tooth, but is early Dec. in its mouldings. Watford at the date (Edward I.) of the early portions of the church was divided between four daughters of Eustace Arden. Three portions afterwards centred in the family of Burnaby, and in their time the chancel and tower were erected. The present lord of the manor is Lord Henley; and there are some Henley monuments in the chancel, including one for Morton, Lord Henley, 1st Baron Henley of Chardstock, the diplomatist (d. 1830). *Watford Court* (Lord Henley) adjoins the church, and has Elizabethan portions. The park is well wooded.

From Welton Stat. the tourist may visit **Ashby St. Ledgers** (2 m. W.), the old seat of the Catesbys, where the old house and church are of interest. The Catesbys (who took their name from Catesby, near Staverton, see *ante*) acquired the manor of Ashby in the reign of Richard II. by marriage with the heiress of Robert Cranford. It was Sir William Catesby who, under Richard III., figured as the "Cat" in the well-known rhyme—

"The rat, the cat, and Lovell our dog,  
Rule all England under the hog."

The rat was Sir Richard Radcliffe; Lord Lovell was the dog; the hog refers to the boar which the King

had adopted as one of the supporters of his shield of arms. This is of course the Catesby of Shakespeare's Richard III., where he is made to appear on the field of Bosworth, but his farther fortunes are not noticed. He was taken prisoner there, and three days later was beheaded at Leicester. In the curious will made on the morning of his execution (see it in Baker, vol. i., and in Dugdale's 'Warwickshire') he desires that his body may be buried in the Church of Ashby St. Ledgers (as it was). He was attainted in the ensuing parliament, and his estates were granted by the Crown to Sir James Blount. But his son, George Catesby, obtained a reversal of the attainder, and recovered the estates. He provides by will for his burial in the church of Ashby; "appointing that two marble stones should be brought thither, the price of each 6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*: one to be layd upon his father and mother, and the other upon himself, as a memorial for him and his wife." Sir William Catesby, great-grandson of this George, was, Nov. 15, 1581, with Lord Vaux of Harrowden, and Sir Thomas Tresham of Rushden, cited before the Star Chamber; when all these were convicted, chiefly on the confession of Campion the Jesuit, of harbouring Jesuits in their houses, and of being present at the celebration of mass. The son and successor of Sir William was *Robert Catesby*, probably the projector, certainly the head, of the Gunpowder Plot. He had been engaged in the plot of Essex, and is described as a man of considerable talents, daring, and of inflexible resolution, and ready to sacrifice everything in the cause of the Catholics. (For the best and fullest history of it, see *Jardine's 'Gunpowder Plot,'* 1857.) After the discovery, Winter and others of the conspirators rode hastily to Ashby St. Ledgers, where it was expected

that Catesby would follow. Catesby himself, with Rookwood, Percy, and John and Christopher Wright, rode with such speed that, leaving London at 11 in the morning, they reached Ashby at 6 on the evening of the same day. (The distance is nearly 80 m.) "Rookwood rode 30 miles on one horse in two hours." "Percy and John Wright cast off their cloaks into the hedge to ride the more speedily." Winter and his companions were about to sit down to supper with Lady Catesby, when Catesby and his fellows arrived† with the news of the apprehension of Faux. After a short conference, the whole party, taking what arms they could, rode off to Dunchurch in Warwickshire, and thence to Holbeach, a house in Staffordshire belonging to Stephen Lyttelton, where they resolved to make a stand. Here they defended themselves against the sheriff and his *posse* for two days, when the house was accidentally fired, and Catesby and Percy rushing out, the first was shot dead on the spot, the other only survived a day or two. Catesby was attainted; and his estates escheating to the Crown, were granted to Sir William Irwing. Ashby St. Ledgers was bought of Irwing in 1612 by Bryan Janson, in whose family it remained until 1703, when it was sold to Joseph Ashley, and now belongs to H. P. Senhouse, Esq.

The manor-house and church of Ashby St. Ledgers stand on high, but somewhat level ground, and are much surrounded by trees. The court in front of the house, with the

church-tower and gate-house on one side, the weather-tinted roofs and chimneys, and the fine trees beyond, is very picturesque. The front of the house is low, with three gables, and belongs to the Elizabethan building. There are portions which are probably older; and the garden-front, with tower and balustrade, is modern. The whole group, with its oriels, gables, and ivy-covered parapets, is striking, and full of antique character. The billiard-room, a sort of wainscoted hall, may have been the chamber in which Lady Catesby was about to sup when her son arrived. Over the gate-house is the so-called *plot-room*, in which, according to the local tradition, Catesby and his fellow-conspirators occasionally met to arrange the details of their plot. It is a room of timber and plaster, with a staircase which is certainly later than the days of the Catesbys. A more ancient building adjoins it: and some of the outbuildings in the court are ancient.

The *Church*, dedicated to St. Leodegarius (St. Leger or Ledger), Bp. of Autun, is interesting in itself, as well as for its Catesby memorials. The lofty arcade, N. and S. (there is no clerestory), is Perp. The original Perp. roofs remain. The wide chancel-arch and the chancel are also Perp.; and there are four uniform Perp. windows on either side of the nave. The rood-screen with canopied top is in good condition; and a round carrying the staircase projects into the angle of the S. aisle. (Compare *Flore, ante.*) The tower seems earlier than the rest of the church, since the nave-aisles are built up against it. In the glass of one of the windows were formerly the figures of John de Catesby and his wife. He died in 1437, and was the grandfather of Sir William Catesby, the follower of Richard III. It is probable that this John de Catesby

† Not, it should be understood, at the *Manor House*; for Robert Winter in his declaration states that he (Catesby) "sent for me into the fields, *hard by the town's end*," the name by which the other end of the village away from the Manor House is still called, "and willed me to take my horse, and come and speak with him, but that I should not let his mother know of his being there. . . ."—(*Jardine*).



was the rebuilder of the church, since it is of uniform character, and belongs to the first half of the 15th cent. There are some fragments of stained glass, among which occurs the lion passant sable, crowned or, of Catesby. In the *chancel* are the following monuments:—a marble slab, on which were the *brasses* of Sir William Catesby (d. 1470), “Unus trenchetorum regis H. sexti”—two wives and six children. The *brasses* were remaining in Bridges’ time, but have since been torn away. This was the father of the Sir William taken at Bosworth. Within the altar-rails is the fine *brass*, well preserved, of this second Sir William—beheaded after Bosworth—and his wife. They are in heraldic dresses, under rich canopies. (The arms on his tabard are Catesby quartering Montfort, Braundiston, and Cranford, and on her mantle Zouch and Cantilupe quarterly.) This is one of the “marble-stones” which Sir William’s son, George Catesby, directs to be laid here (see *ante*). On the N. wall is the monument of Bryan Janson and wife, “sometime citizen and draper of London,” and the purchaser of the manor in 1612. There are other Janson monuments, and several for Ashleys—one of which, with figures of Justice and Conjugal Affection, is by *J. Bacon*.

In the *N. Aisle*, at the E. end, is the *brass* of Sir Richard Catesby (d. 1552), in armour and tabard; and here are several memorials of the Arnolds of Ashby Lodge; including one very elaborate monument (modern Gothic) with canopy, for George H. Arnold (d. 1844). At the E. end of the S. aisle are three small *brasses*:—Thomas Stokes (d. 1416) and wife; William Smyght, rector of Oxhulfe and Eldtoft (d. 1510) and a Catesby, in tabard, circ. 1500. Some 15th cent. pews as well as some of Jacobean date remain.

*Ashby Lodge* (P. E. Tichborne Hibbert, Esq., J.P.) is about 1 m. N.W. of the village, near the Warwickshire border. From the ridge of high ground near the house very fine views are commanded over the central plain of England. The walks in Braunston Cleves, which lead toward this summit, are very pleasant. There is a good collection of pictures at Ashby Lodge, and an excellent topographical library. The house was built by George Arnold, Esq., in 1722; and among the pictures are portraits of himself and of his daughter, painted by *Hogarth*, when on a visit here.

Proceeding from Welton Stat., the rly. passes through the Kilsby tunnel, which pierces the high ground on the border of the county. It is  $1\frac{3}{4}$  m. long, and is ventilated by two large shafts, each 60 ft. in diameter; one 120 ft. deep, the other 90 ft. In the line of the tunnel was an extensive quicksand, which was not pierced without difficulty and danger. The cost of piercing was 300,000*l*. The engineer was George Stephenson.

On emerging from the tunnel the rly. almost immediately crosses the border of Northamptonshire, and soon reaches

24½ m. ★ Rugby (Junct. Stat.).  
(See *H. Bk. for Warwickshire*.)

#### *The Route by Road.*

The road to Rugby, *viâ* Daventry, leaves Northampton by the W. of the town, and passing Castle Stat., L. & N. W. Rly., proceeds to Flore ( $7\frac{1}{4}$  m.). From here it descends a long hill to Weedon ( $8\frac{1}{4}$  m.), where it joins the old Holyhead road which proceeds to ★ Daventry ( $12\frac{3}{4}$  m.) and thence to Braunston (16 m.). The road soon afterwards quits the county before reaching Willoughby ( $17\frac{1}{4}$  m.), and passing Dunchurch (19 m.) turns N. to ★ Rugby ( $20\frac{1}{4}$  m.).

## ROUTE 7.

## NORTHAMPTON TO FENNY COMPTON AND TO BANBURY.

(NORTHANTS AND BANBURY JUNCTION RAILWAY,  $25\frac{1}{2}$  m., AND THE EAST AND WEST JUNCTION RAILWAY,  $18\frac{1}{4}$  m.)

Rail.	Stations.
	Northampton.
$4\frac{3}{4}$ m.	Blisworth.
9 m.	TOWCESTER.
	$4\frac{1}{2}$ m. Blakesley.
	$7\frac{1}{2}$ m. Moreton Pinkney.
	$11\frac{1}{2}$ m. Byfield.
	$18\frac{1}{2}$ m. Fenny Compton.
13 m.	Wappenham.
$16\frac{1}{2}$ m.	Helmdon.
$21\frac{1}{2}$ m.	Farthinghoe.
$25\frac{1}{2}$ m.	Banbury.

Proceeding from Northampton (Castle Stat.) to Blisworth Junct. Stat. (see Rte. 6), the line to Banbury branches off in a S.W. direction, passing the village of Tiffeld on the l. before reaching

9 m. ★Towcester (Junct. Stat.), a market-town lying on the line of the Watling Street, and on the rt. bank of the little river Towe, which rising, like the other Northamptonshire rivers, from the high ground on the eastern border, after passing Towcester, forms for a short distance the boundary of the county, until it falls into the Ouse near Stony Stratford.

Towcester was the site of the Roman station of *Lactodorum*. After the Saxon conquest it became a town of importance from its position, and Edward the Elder, in 921, during the struggle with the Danes, ordered the "burg" to be built there (*getimbran*; it does not perhaps imply that the town was before entirely without defence). The Danes from Northampton and Leicester fought (in the same year) against this "burg" for a whole

day; "but the folk who were within defended it until help came to them, and the enemy left the burg." In the same autumn King Edward, with a force of West Saxons, went to Passenham, "and sat there while they surrounded the burg at Tofecestre (Towcester) with a stone wall." ('Sax. Chron.' *ad. ann.*) Of this "stone wall"—(which marks an advance in fortification beyond the earthen dyke, but which can hardly have been so strong or so well wrought as the "wall of squared stone" with which Athelstane surrounded Exeter)—there are no traces: but it probably followed the line of a dyke and fosse, which may still be traced, and which formed an irregular, angular enclosure of some extent. (A plan is given in 'Baker,' vol. ii.) The mound, which is an especial feature of Saxon strong places, and which is found at other "burgs" "set in order" by Edward the Elder also remains here. It is circular, about 24 ft. high, with a diameter of 100 ft., and rises immediately above the river Towe, a little N. of the church. It is known as Burg Hill, and since Roman coins and pottery have been found in great quantity on and about it, the mound was no doubt in existence in the days of *Lactodorum*, though it was certainly turned to account by the Saxons, and must be regarded as the chief feature of the "ceastre," or stronghold, which they named from the adjoining river. The hill is planted



with fir-trees, and a trench which formerly surrounded it has been filled up.

There was much skirmishing in and about Towcester during the Civil War; and at that time the old defences seem once more to have played their part. In October, 1643, Prince Rupert, with a part of the Royalist army, was quartered at Towcester, whilst the Parliamentarians were at Newport Pagnell. Constant fights took place, and on one occasion Towcester was surprised in the night, the sentinels and 30 men killed, and two colours and many prisoners carried off to Newport. Rupert then determined to fortify the place for a winter garrison, and called in pioneers and labourers for the purpose. He "made Towcester very strong, and brought the water round about the town." This was the only royal garrison in Northamptonshire, and it was abandoned in the following January, when it became necessary to concentrate the royal forces at Oxford, where Charles had established his court. The works constructed by Rupert were then "slighted." Both parties subsequently passed through, and from time to time occupied Towcester. The main street of the town is, in fact, the Watling Street, and Towcester was thus an important halting-place on the great road from London to Chester. It was famous for its inns, one of which, now called the "Talbot," but then the "Tabard," was sold in 1440 to Archdeacon Sponne, who gave it to the town. In this house the arms of Sponne, with his name beneath, remain in one of the windows. The Dean of St. Patrick's used to halt at the "Talbot" on his way to Ireland, and a chair of carved oak preserved there is still known as Dean Swift's chair. Another Inn, now known as "The Pomfret Arms Hotel," is mentioned by Dickens as "The

Saracen's Head" in 'The Pickwick Papers.' Besides these inns, there are one or two picturesque old houses in the town, the best of which, in the market-place, is early Tudor.

The Church of St. Lawrence was restored in 1883. The nave-arcade is E. E., with a Perp. clerestory, and Perp. aisles. The chancel is Dec., and retains the roof erected by Sir Robert Banastre in 1640. At the W. end of the nave was a gallery "erected by Henry Newby, citizen and haberdasher, born in the town . . . for the glory of God and a fayre ornament for this parish church, 1627." It was taken down in 1883, and the organ removed to N.E. chapel. In the chancel is a small mural monument for Hierome Farmer (d. 1602), who "attained to the honour of a great-grand-uncle"; and at the end of the S. aisle is the monument with effigy of William Sponne, Archdeacon of Norfolk from 1422 to 1447, and rector of Towcester. He wears a long, black gown, having sleeves edged with fur, and a collar lined with fur. On his head is a close, black cap. An inner dress reaches to his feet, and nearly covers them. Underneath, and seen through the open arcade of the altar-tomb, is a cadaver. Archdeacon Sponne gave the "Talbot" inn to the town "with lands belonging to it for the payment of the fifteens for the parish of Towcester, if any such tax be given by parliament." If not, the rents were to go for paving the town or for other uses. The tower is massive Perp. and lofty. Edward IV. granted to the parishioners, for building this tower and the nave aisles, stone from a quarry in Wittlebury Forest. The stained glass in this church was destroyed by one Robert Stethberry, who, according to a tract of 1642, became mad and died in consequence. His wife was "exceedingly tormented on a sudden in her limbs," and died also; and

his sister, who "tore the book of Common Prayer away from her Bible, with which it was bound up," suffered greatly in the "hands which had done that ill deed." In the S. aisle is an old stall with some black-letter books chained to it, including a fine specimen of Bishop's Bible. The modern stained glass representing "the Crucifixion" was inserted in the window in commemoration of the sixty years' reign of H.M. the Queen.

The entrance of **Easton Neston Park** (Sir T. G. Fermor Hesketh, Bt.) is at the eastern end of the town, from which the house is distant about a mile. (The *exterior of the house* and the *church* are the objects of interest.) Easton Neston (Estanestone and Aldestanestone in Domesday) first rises into interest as the property of Sir Richard Empson, the minister of Henry VII. Empson, like his fellow Dudley ("bold men and careless of fame," they are called by Lord Bacon, "that took toll of their master's grist"), was of low degree, the son of a sieve-maker at Towcester, where he was born and educated. His father was no doubt a man of some local consequence. The son became a lawyer, and seems to have been introduced to the King by Sir Reginald Bray, who had large estates in Northamptonshire. Richard Empson, after his attainder, was found to be possessed of ten manors in Northants, besides the manor and hundred of Towcester, all of which he had acquired during his time of favour with the King. On the death of Henry VII., Dudley was tried in London, and Empson was sent down to Northampton for trial. Both were attainted, and both remained in prison for a year afterwards. Both were beheaded on Tower Hill, August 17, 1510. Empson's estates were granted to Sir William Compton; but in 1513 Thomas Empson, son of Sir Richard,

obtained an act of restitution. In 1527 he sold them (apparently) to William Fermor of Somerton in Oxfordshire. The real purchaser, however, was Richard, brother of this William Fermor, whose descendant, Sir William Fermor, was made a baronet by Charles I. in 1641. His son in 1692 became Baron Lempster (Leominster), and in 1721 his son, the second Lord Lempster, became Earl of Pomfret (Pontefract). The titles became extinct on the death of the fifth earl in 1867. The estates passed to the sister of the last earl, Lady A. M. Fermor Hesketh; and her son, the present possessor, succeeded her in 1870.

The first *house* of Easton Neston stood in the park, between Easton Church and the river Towe. In it (June 27, 1603) James I. met Anne of Denmark and Prince Henry on their first coming into England. The King had preceded them. The Queen and Prince came to Easton from Althorp (see Rte. 7), and were received by Sir George Fermor. "There wear an infinit companie of lords and ladies," says Lady Anne Clifford, "and other people, that the countrie could scarce lodge them." The King then knighted, among others, Sir Hatton Fermor, the son of his host. In October, 1604, the King and Queen met here Prince Charles. Sir Robert Cary, his governor, says, "I attended his grace all his journey up; and at Sir George Fermor's in Northamptonshire were found the King and Queen, who were very glad to see their young son." The present house was built by the first Lord Lempster. It is on much higher ground, and consisted of a centre and wings. The wings were first built, and were by Wren. The centre, by Nicholas Hawksmoor, was finished in 1702, 20 years after the wings had been built. These have been removed. Hawksmoor's portion of the house remains, and is a fine composition,



though it suffers of course from the absence of the wings, with reference to which it was designed. (The complete elevation may be seen in Campbell's 'Vitruvius.' The western front extended 320 ft.) The parapet was originally decorated with antique statues—a portion of the collection bought by the first Lord Lempster from the Earl of Arundel. These have been replaced by urns; and the whole collection, including the statues on the balustrade, was given (1755) by the widow of Thomas, 1st Earl of Pomfret, to the University of Oxford, where it was lodged with the other portion of the Arundel marbles given to the University by Lord Henry Howard, afterwards Duke of Norfolk. These "Pomfret marbles," as they are called, consist of 130 Greek, Roman, and Egyptian statues, busts, and basso-relievos. The house contains some fine rooms. The staircase is painted, by *Sir James Thornhill*, with subjects from the life of Cyrus; and there are still some pictures of interest, though many of those described by Bridges have disappeared. The most noticeable are, *Battle of Valenciennes*, by *P. de Loutherbourg*, dated 1794, and full of portraits; two very interesting paintings by *Canaletto*, Old Kensington Palace and London Bridge; and some Fermor portraits, including the first Lord Lempster (builder of the house), by *Kneller*. In one room are hunting scenes by *Abraham Hondius*, set in panels bordered by carved fruit and flowers.

The Church of St. Mary is close to the house (where the key must be asked for). It is Perp., and was rebuilt temp. Henry IV. by the executors of John Bacon, citizen and woolstapler of London. It is chiefly noticeable for the monuments of Fermors, which are fine examples of their several periods. In the chancel is an altar-tomb

with *brasses* for "Rychard Fermer, merchant of the staple of Caleys" (d. 1552) and Anne his wife. This was the Fermor who bought Easton from the son of Sir Richard Empson. He died here; and "it is remarkable," says Collins (*Peerage*, iv.), "that, having some foreknowledge of his own death, he invited on that very day many of his friends and neighbours, and taking leave of them, retired to his devotions, and was found dead in that posture." On the brass he is in armour. Opposite is the monument of Sir George Fermor (d. 1612), and his wife Mary Curson (d. 1628). This is unusual, and very fine for its period. The figures are in alabaster; Sir George on a rolled-up mat, with armour seamed and studded with gold. His head rests on a tilting helmet, with cock's head and neck as crest, painted red. His wife lies above him on a raised slab; she has a large widow's hood or curche on her head, and a quilled ruff. At the back of the tomb a number of pennons bearing shields are arranged like an outspread peacock's tail, rich in gold and colour. The inscriptions have been obliterated. On the S. wall is the monument of Sir Hatton Fermor (d. 1640), and his second wife Anne Cockayne. This is of black and white marble, and the figures are erect. He is bareheaded, in armour, but with a large cravat and enormous loose boots. His wife, richly dressed, rests her head on an hour-glass. This monument was erected by her "in the 22nd year of her widowhood, anno 1662." The seated figure of George, 3rd Earl of Pomfret (d. 1830), is by *Baily, R.A.* Opposite is a monument by *Sir F. Chantrey, R.A.*, for George, 2nd earl (d. 1785), a "full-sized group, emblematic of filial affection." There is also a monument by *Chantrey* for Peter Denys (d. 1816), and Lady Charlotte Denys (d. 1835); three female

figures hover above an urn. In both aisles are modern heraldic windows.

The views from the church and from the house are wide and pleasant, extending across the northern portion of Whittlebury Forest. The spires of Grafton Regis and of Alderton are seen in the distance. Near the house is a fragment of an entrance archway, said to have been removed from the earlier mansion. The park is large and well wooded.

3½ m. S. of Towcester is the pretty village of Whittlebury. The *Church* of St. Mary was restored in 1878 at the cost of Robert Loder, Esq. It contains a good Trans.-Norm. arch of the early part of the 12th cent. leading from the nave into the tower. This arch is a relic of the original building, which seems to have consisted of a chancel, nave, and tower. In the E. E. period the aisles were added to the building, and the arcades substituted for the solid side walls. The porch is of still later date, and the windows, with one exception, are modern. The oak seats, reredos, &c., were put in at the time of the restoration in 1878. The height of the tower was raised in 1887, when two bells were added to the three already there. Roman remains have been found in the parish.

2 m. W. of Whittlebury is Silverstone, situated on the road from Towcester to Brackley. The *Church* has a somewhat curious history. It was originally dedicated to St. Michael, but, in 1780, when it was entirely rebuilt in the Georgian style, the dedication was changed to that of St. Anne. In 1884 Robert Loder, Esq., of Whittlebury, rebuilt the church, using the lower part of the walls belonging to the former structure, the architecture of the new building

being in the E. E. style, and the church was once again dedicated to St. Michael.

Cross-roads, with pleasant forest views, lead from Whittlebury to Paulerspury (2 m. N.E.), so called from the Paveleys, its ancient lords. The *Church* of St. James contains E. E. portions (N. chantry), but the nave and aisles were mainly rebuilt in 1844. The chancel was restored in 1855, and the whole building was greatly improved by mural decoration and other alterations in 1886. The W. window, by Hardman, is a fine one, but most of the other stained glass is poor. The reredos erected in 1898 contains some paintings by *Westlake*. The circular font, a very fine one, is late Norm. In the chancel are wooden effigies of a knight and his lady (13th cent. work), members probably of the Paveley family, who were Lords of the Manor from the Conquest to the middle of the 15th cent. In the chantry is also a handsome alabaster tomb with recumbent effigies of Sir Arthur Throckmorton (d. 1626) and his wife; they are placed in line, head to head, each supporting the head on the elbow, and smiling into the other's face. A Latin inscription states that they lived together for more than forty years "without a quarrel." There are also tablets in memory of Bathursts and Sheddens, families connected with Paulerspury. Sir Benjamin Bathurst (d. 1704), whose memorial is here, was father of the first Earl Bathurst, created 1772. Two of the bells are said to have been brought from Luffield Priory—a small house of Benedictines, of which but slight remains exist, which stood on the border of Buckinghamshire, near Lillingstone.

Dr. William Carey, "the patriarch of Indian missions, and the first Oriental Professor of Languages in



India," was born here in 1761—the son of a cottager. (See a Memoir in Baker, vol. ii., and 'The Life of William Carey,' by George Smith, 1885.) He died at Calcutta in 1834, having done much "in opening the store of Indian literature to the knowledge of Europe." Here are the kennels of the Grafton Hunt. The Hon. E. S. Douglas-Pennant is Master.

In a hedgerow between Paulerspury and Grafton Regis is a much-shattered and venerable tree, generally known as the *Queen's Oak*. "Four hundred years ago it was a stalwart tree, and the bleak winds of January, 1461, had scarcely stripped it of its brown leaves, when Edward IV., out a-hunting in Whittlebury forest, and perhaps moodily turning over in his mind his marriage with the Princess of Savoy which Warwick was then abroad negotiating, was suddenly stopped under its branches by a fair stranger, who asked him where she might find the King. It was Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Woodville, Earl Rivers, who was on her way from her father's house at Grafton to entreat the King for the reversal of the attainder against her late husband, Sir John Grey, when the King declared himself to be the person she sought; she instantly fell on her knees, to be raised as quickly by the too gallant monarch, who failed not to see the fair stranger home. There the fascination of the beautiful widow, and the dexterous management of her ambitious mother, Dowager Duchess of Bedford, which an Act of Parliament afterwards solemnly pronounced "the sorcery and witchcraft of Elizabeth and her mother," led to her secret marriage with the King in a private chamber at Grafton in the following May."—James's 'Northamptonshire.'

Grafton Regis is about 3 m. E. [Northamptonshire.]

from Paulerspury, on the rt. of the road from Buckingham to Northampton. The village stands on high ground, and the manor-house, to which much historical interest was attached, must have been conspicuous and important, especially from the Northampton side. It was ruined during the Civil War, and although part of it has been made habitable, it has lost all its ancient character. Grafton became the property of Thomas Widville early in the reign of Henry VI. The family of Widville can be traced in Grafton and its neighbourhood as early as the 12th cent., and after they became lords of Grafton they rose rapidly in importance. Sir Richard Widville, of Grafton, married Jacquetta de Luxemburgh, Dowager Duchess of Bedford, and became Baron and (1466) Earl Rivers. He and his son, Sir John Widville, were beheaded at Northampton, Aug. 12, 1469, after the northern insurrection and the fight on Danesmoor. His eldest daughter, Elizabeth, married Sir John Grey of Groby, killed at St. Alban's, 1460; and she afterwards became Queen of Edward IV. There were, in succession, three Earls Rivers—of whom the second, beheaded at Pontefract (1483), was the patron of Caxton. The last Earl bequeathed Grafton to his nephew, Thomas Grey, Marquis of Dorset. His son, the 2nd Marquis, sold it, in 1527, to Henry VIII., who erected the manor into an honour, to which were attached many inferior lordships. It continued in the crown until Charles II., in 1665, made it part of Queen Catherine's jointure; and afterwards granted it to Henry Bennett, Earl of Arlington, for his life, and then to the Earl of Euston and his heirs. This Lord Euston was the second son of King Charles by the famous Duchess of Cleveland. He was afterwards created *Duke of*

Grafton, and his descendant, the present (6th) Duke is still the lord of the greater part of the ancient honour.

Edward IV. went from Stony Stratford to his private marriage at Grafton, May 1, 1464, and returned to Stratford on the same day. The marriage was not publicly declared until the following Michaelmas. The sons of Edward and Elizabeth were the two princes murdered in the Tower. The eldest daughter, Elizabeth, became the wife of Henry VII. It was in the old house of Grafton that Henry VIII., in 1529, received Card. Campeggio for the last time. The Pope had "sent an evocation" of the Queen's cause to himself at Rome, and Campeggio accordingly prepared to leave England. Wolsey accompanied Campeggio to Grafton, and a full account of the interview is given by Cavendish ('Life of Wolsey'). Wolsey was at this time supposed to be in deep disgrace with his master, and the courtiers carefully watched the King's countenance and bearing. But Henry "gently entertained the cardinal," for which "Mistress Anne Boleyn was much offended with the King, as far as she durst." There was no room for Wolsey at Grafton, and Cavendish (his gentleman usher) "provided a lodging for him at a house of Master Empson's called Easton" (the old house of Easton Neston), "whither my lord came by torchlight." Henry VIII. was more than once at Grafton for the sake of hunting. On one occasion he "touched two poor women" for the evil here; the Mayor of Northampton sent a present of pears to the "King's grace"; and there was paid "to a power woman that gave the King's grace peres and nuttes in the forests, iiij. s. viii. d." Elizabeth was here in 1568, on one of her progresses. The Royalists seized and held the house in 1643;

and on the Christmas Eve of that year it was stormed and taken by "Sergeant-Major General" Skippon and some 3000 men. The soldiers "found great and rich plunder, which they had for their pains," and, "for prevention of future inconveniences, the house was fired" on Christmas Day. Many prisoners were taken, among whom was the Royalist commander, Sir John Digby. The house was left, and long remained, in complete ruin.

The Church of St. Mary is of no very great interest, though it has early portions, and a Trans.-Norm. font. In the N. aisle are some Widville monuments; one uninscribed and without effigies; another an altar-tomb, with *brass* for Sir John Widville (living in 1392), grandfather of the first Lord Rivers. The armour is an excellent example. Round the verge of the slab is an inscription, of which the first two lines run—"Propiciante Deo qui Campanile peregit John Wydevil sub eo jam lapis iste tegit"—showing that the tower was built by this Sir John. In the S. aisle is a monument by *Flaxman*, for a Countess of Euston (d. 1808). It is a tablet flanked by small figures of Faith and Hope.

From Grafton Regis the road may be followed through the hamlet of Yardley Gobion to Potterspury (2 m. S.), a village so named from a manufacture of coarse ware, such as flower-pots and vases, which was carried on here at an early period, but has long been discontinued. The clay was brought here from Cosgrove. The Church of St. Nicholas has undergone much restoration, partly in 1848, and partly in 1860. It contains no monuments of interest. 1 m. from the village is *Wakefield Lodge*, the seat of the Duke of Grafton, K.G. The house, of no great size, was



built by the second Duke, from a design by Kent. The forest, lawns, and grounds, are pleasant and picturesque; and there is a lake of 35 acres. There are some family portraits at Wakefield.

$\frac{1}{2}$  m. E. from Potterspury is Furtho. The little Church, dedicated to St. Bartholomew, was rebuilt in 1820 by the family of the same name, and was restored 1870.

A monument in the chancel, with effigies of a man and two wives, supposed to be that of Anthony Furtho, who died in the first year of Elizabeth, was unfortunately completely destroyed by workmen ignorant of its value.

1 m. E. from Furtho is Cosgrove (1 m. from Castlethorpe Stat., L. & N. W. Rly.), on the borders of Buckinghamshire.

The Church, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, is most picturesque with fine buttressed and embattled tower. The E. window of the chancel is to the memory of Henry Mansel (d. 1871), a Dean of St. Paul's, and author of many learned religious works. (*Vide* Dean Burgon's 'Lives of Twelve Good Men.') Much of the land is high, with fine views over the surrounding country of Bucks and Northants. The Grafton foxhounds hunt here frequently during the season. *Cosgrove Hall* is the seat of A. W. T. Grant Thorold, Esq., and *Cosgrove Priory*, of J. J. Atkinson, Esq.

Passenham, on the Ouse, a little S. of the ford (Stony Stratford), where the Watling Street crosses the river, is interesting from the mention of it which occurs in the Saxon Chron. In 921, while Edward the Elder was building the "stone wall" at Towcester (see *ante*), he "fared with his West Saxons to Passanhamme, and sat there while they wrought at the

wall." Bridges describes an "almost square entrenchment" near the ford here, which has quite disappeared. In the Church of St. Guthlake are some monuments of Banastres, one of whom (d. 1649) "built and beautified the fayre chancell." The church and vicarage seem to occupy the site of a considerable ancient cemetery. Skeletons in great numbers, and much pottery and glass (Roman and Brito-Roman) have been found here.

The village of Wicken lies  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. W. The Church of St. John the Evangelist was rebuilt in 1758. *Wicken Park* is the seat of Lord Penrhyn.

About  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.W. from Towcester is Green's Norton, where the church was formerly rich in monuments of the family of Green, of which little more than fragments now exist. They were displaced and destroyed at different periods, the greatest mischief having been done in 1826, when the church was "beautified"; a word which seems to carry with it much the same signification as the more modern term "restoration." The manor of Green's Norton was bought in 1355 by Sir Henry Green, Lord Chief Justice of England, whose ancestors were lords of Boughton in Northamptonshire (see Rte. 4), and were named from the "green" of the village there, according to Halstead (*Genealogies*). However this may be, Sir Henry was the father of a Thomas Green, the first of six Sir Thomas Greens of Green's Norton, who succeeded each other without interruption. The last Sir Thomas died in 1506, leaving two daughters co-heiresses. The younger, Matilda, married Sir Thomas Parr. Their daughter Catherine became Queen of Henry VIII., and her brother Willaim was created Earl of Essex by King Henry, and Marquis of

Northampton, in the first year of Edward VI. Henry VIII., anticipating the euphuism of his daughter's court, called Sir William Parr his "Integrity." Edward VI. spoke of him as "mine honest uncle." On his death without issue, in 1570, his estates passed to the Crown, and Green's Norton has since that time been in various hands. Tradition asserts that Queen Catherine Parr was born at Green's Norton. The Parrs, however, were of Kendal, in Westmorland; and Fuller, in his 'Worthies,' "resigns her over" to that country, "to prevent cavils." (There is a very interesting portrait of this Queen at Glendon Hall, near Kettering, see Rte. 9.)

The manor-house of the Greens stood N.W. of the church; but has utterly disappeared. The *Church* of St. Bartholomew, partly E. E., was thoroughly restored at a cost of over 3000*l.* in 1891. The spire was rebuilt in 1807. The Green monuments are described and roughly figured in Halstead's very rare volume of 'Genealogies' (see *Drayton*, Rte. 2), and are reproduced in Baker's *History* (vol. ii.). In the centre of the chancel stood the altar-tomb, with effigies of Sir Thomas Green (d. 1391) and wife. This tomb was broken up in 1826. The lower part of the knight's figure was destroyed. The upper part, with the figure of the lady, are laid temporarily in a recumbent position in the N. aisle, and the remains of the altar-tomb with some remnants of the *brasses* belonging to it has been replaced in its original position. She has the horned head-dress, and wears a collar of SS. On the N. side of the chancel was the altar-tomb, with *brasses*, of Sir Thomas Green (d. 1417) and wife. The tomb is gone. The *brass* of the lady (Mary Talbot) is laid on the floor, under the eastern arch. At the E. end of the N. aisle was the tomb, with *brasses*, of another Sir

Thomas (d. 1457) and wife. These have utterly vanished. Again, in the chancel, side by side with that first mentioned, was the altar-tomb of Sir Thomas Green (d. 1462) and his wife. The tomb has been destroyed. The relics of these interesting monuments deserve the attention of the antiquary. There are two mural monuments for John Hicklinge (d. 1558), and William his son (d. 1606).

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Leaving Towcester by the East and West Junction Rly. at

5 m. *Blakesley* (Stat.), where the country is pleasant and much wooded. The *Church* of the Virgin, late Perp., has been restored. It contains the small *brass* of Matthew Swetenham (d. 1416), bowbearer of Henry IV. The figure is in plain plate-armour. In this parish was the small Northamptonshire property, consisting only of a house and a few "yardlands," of Dryden, the poet.

3½ m. N. of *Blakesley* is *Lichborough*. The *Church* of St. Martin, a Perp. and Dec. edifice, contains both a mural monument and an altar-tomb with effigy for Sir John Nedham (d. 1618). The monumental tablet declares that,

"This worthy knight, subdued by death,  
Is happy made by loss of breath."

In front of the tomb below is an inscription recording that Sir John was Gentleman Pensioner to Queen Elizabeth and to James I., "and was by them both well esteemed, and likewise by other noble persons of the best ranke and qualitie." On the staircase of *Lichborough Hall* (E. Grant, Esq.) is a full-length portrait of Sir John Nedham, in armour and white hose, with plumed hat and staff of office. Among the



rectors of Lichborough were William Peters, R.A., once well known as an artist, in which capacity he gave to the world such performances as "the Resurrection of a pious family,"—and James Douglas, author of the 'Nænia Britannica,' completed in 1793.

In the parish of Farthingstone, N.W. of Lichborough, and at the west end of Farthingstone Wood, is *Castle Dykes*, a large and irregular entrenchment, occupying about 13 acres. It is surrounded by a single ditch, and an outer bank or vallum. A deep ditch intersects it, and produces two nearly equal divisions. In the centre of the northern division is a circular mound or keep; and the whole arrangement seems to suggest the defences of a "strength" or fortified house earlier than the Conquest. A tower of stone was built on the mound at a later period, and fragments of masonry have been found there. The view from this site is very extensive. A short distance S.W. of it is a field called *Castle Yard*, with traces of a square entrenchment. When Pennant visited it about 1780 there was a tradition that a "town" had formerly stood there.

$7\frac{1}{2}$  m. Moreton Pinkney (Stat.). The church is seen l.; and on the rt., among trees, is the square tower of *Canons Ashby*, one of the most interesting places in the county. The church and house of Canons Ashby are  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the station.

In the village of Moreton Pinkney (Culworth Stat. on the G. C. Rly. is  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.W.) is a house built of yellow and red sandstone, arranged in stripes, the date 1616; besides a somewhat similar house with a very steep roof, date about 1700. The villages in this part of the country abound in Tudor houses, well built and picturesque, the type of which, or portions of it, was fol-

lowed to a much later period. This "Moreton" was named from the Pinkney family, to whom the manor belonged, and who had the head of their great "honour" at Weedon Pinkney, or Weedon Lois, one of the adjoining parishes (see *post*). The manor came at last to Copes and Clanders, and through the latter family to the family of Sempill. The *manor-house*, adjoining the church, is now owned and occupied by the Misses Grey, to whose family it was left by Lady Sempill. It has Tudor and perhaps earlier portions; but in 1860 it was nearly rebuilt, with very picturesque, if somewhat anomalous, result. It contains a few portraits of interest.

The *Church* of St. Mary well deserves a visit. The nave arcade is Transition; the chancel E. E., but rebuilt in 1845 precisely on the original plan. It was from this chancel that the design was taken for the older part of Littlemore Chapel, near Oxford, built by John Henry Newman, and that of the chancel of Holdenby Church; and the graceful proportions and arrangement commend the choice. The western tower is also E. E. and curious. It is low, and set back in three stages, with angle shafts.

Moreton is a good specimen of a Northamptonshire village, generally marked in this part of the country by great irregularity, high gables, Tudor windows, and striped stonework (the iron stone and oolite are used in alternate courses). There is almost always a green, mostly small, with a fine tree in the midst, usually a great elm.

About 2 m. S.E. of Moreton Pinkney is *Plumpton*, where the *Church*, rebuilt in 1822, is without interest. Here are the trenches of the ancient castle of the Plumptons and a very fine Elizabethan manor-house. The parish adjoins that of *Weedon Lois*, or *Weedon Pinkney*. St. Loy's (sup-

posed corruption of St. Louis or of St. Lucien) Well here is called by Morton, the "chief (well) of all the western part of the county. Even blind and leprous people, as tradition tells us, it infallibly cured." The supposed spring of very fine water is still considered a specific for bad eyes. After the Conquest this place became the head of the honour or barony of the Pinkneys, whose ancestor, as we learn from Domesday, was "Ghilo, brother of Ansculf." Ansculf himself appears in the same survey as "Ansculf de Pinchengi," or "Pinkeni"; and this surname was retained by his brother's descendants. They continued here until 1301, when Henry de Pinkney sold his barony to King Edward I. It has since passed through many hands. There was a small Benedictine Priory here, founded by Ghilo de Pinkney, and at first attached as a cell to the Abbey of St. Lucien, near Beauvais. In 1392 it was transferred to the English house of Bittlesden. There are no remains of the Priory; but it stood in what is now known as Church Close; the fish-ponds are still very perfect. The front vicarage grounds are the site of the ancient castle of the Pinkneys. The *Church*, a cruciform structure, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Mary, partly E. E., contains a Norm. font. One of its vicars, William Losse, defended himself in the belfry, and on the roofs, against a body of Parliamentary troopers, sent to carry him to Northampton, who finally left him for dead on the top of the tower. A *brass* recording the event has lately been placed in the church; and the ladder which he used to barricade the trap-door is still preserved as a relic. At *Weston Hall* (Lady Hanmer), there are a few family portraits. The old manor-house was built in 1588.

Bart.) lies to the N. of Moreton Stat.

A Priory of Augustinian Canons was founded at Ashby (the "bye" or village of the ash-trees), probably before the time of Stephen de Ley (Thurleigh in Bedfordshire), who is, however, the earliest known benefactor. He was lord of the manor temp. Henry II. The house prospered moderately, and at the Dissolution, the annual value was rather more than 147*l*. None of the Priors seem to have been personages of great importance. The site and demesne lands were granted in 1537 to Sir Francis Bryan, and in the following year they were alienated to John Cope, afterwards knighted. His descendant, Thomas Cope, in 1665, sold Ashby to Gerard Usher, who in the same year transferred the place to Sir Robert Dryden; in which family it has since remained. The Drydens were already possessed of some property in the parish, where they first appear (coming from Cumberland) toward the middle of the 16th cent. John Dryden, or Dreyden, as the name was then written, married the daughter of Sir John Cope, of Canons Ashby. It is generally asserted that their son, Erasmus Dryden, was named after the great scholar of Rotterdam, who had been a friend of his father; but the name appears at an earlier date as that of his uncle, eldest son of Sir John Cope. This Erasmus Dryden was created a baronet in 1619. His third son, also an Erasmus, was of Tichmarsh (see Rte. 2), and was father of "Glorious John." After a succession of seven baronets, Sir John Dryden died *sine prole* in 1770, devising his estates to his niece Elizabeth, who married John Turner (son of Sir Edward Turner, of Ambroseden, in Oxfordshire), who thereupon took the name and arms of Dryden, and in 1795 was created a baronet. Sir Henry Dryden, the

Canons Ashby (Sir A. E. Dryden,



4th baronet (d. 1899), was a well-known archæologist.

The *Church* of the Priory, now little more than a private chapel (there is no endowment of any kind), stands on the road from the station to the House. It is only a portion of the building, and consists of nave (part of which is used as a chancel), north aisle, and a tower attached to the N. side of the aisle, 27 ft. square (outside), and 93 ft. high, including pinnacles. The western doorway and the arcade on each side of it may date from about 1250. The W. window is an insertion, circ. 1450. The tower was built about 1350, and there was a porch of very peculiar construction in the angle between the tower and aisle. The two arches with their piers, which divide nave and aisle, are E. E., and of about the same date as the western front. The exterior arcade on either side of the door is excellent; as fine as any similar work of its period which remains. The arcade along the base of the tower is Dec., and later. It has shafts without caps. The tower itself is very massive, and is of good ashlar, inside and out. One of the pinnacles is original; the others were built in the 17th cent. In the tower chamber is a large assemblage of tiles and fragments discovered from time to time on the site of the monastic buildings. There are *brasses* for (apparently) the first John Dryden; and Sir Erasmus Dryden, the first baronet. The brass of John Dryden is small and without inscription, but seems to be that referred to in his will, where he describes himself as "being assured that he is the elect of God"; and adds, "Although I doe not allow of pomp in burials, yet for some reasonable considerations, I will that the stone that I have already prepared shall be laid upon my grave, and my arms and my wyve's graven in brasse thereupon." There are also

monuments for Sir Robert Dryden (d. 1708), for Sir John Turner Dryden (d. 1818), and (by *L. Rossi*) for his father, the first baronet of that creation (d. 1797).

The domestic buildings of the Priory were on the S. side of the church, and were converted into a dwelling-house by Sir John Cope (d. 1558). Before 1600, however, this was divided into two farm-houses, and so continued after the purchase by the Drydens, till the whole was taken down in 1710. A small portion of the gateway into the close may be found 86 ft. N. by W. of the church, and the former E. end of the church is marked by a break of the ground in the churchyard, showing that the total length was about 217 ft. In a field E. of the gateway is a *well*, known as the "Nor-well." The grant to the monks for its enclosure is dated in 1253; and the small stone structure over the spring may very well be of that date. A large reservoir adjoins the well, and pipes from it were carried under the pavement of the church to the monastic buildings.

The present *house* of Canons Ashby is, in part, that which was built by the first John Dryden, who married the daughter of Sir John Cope. It is, however, a pile of various dates—the tower being earlier than the time of this John Dryden, whilst the hall was built by him, and very great changes in the house were made before 1708–1710, when the old monastic buildings (Sir John Cope's house) were taken down, and the stone work used here. The house encloses a quadrangle, with wings projecting 12 ft. beyond the N.W. face. The tower, 50 ft. high, is on the S.W. side of the quadrangle. The front entrance is on the N.W. face, from the "green court," into the hall. The offices are at the N.E. end of the hall. The quadrangle, small as it is (52 ft. by 37 ft.), is very

picturesque. The nail-doors bear the arms of John Dryden, and must be of the same age as the hall, built between his marriage in 1551 and his death in 1584. This is a striking apartment, happily "unrestored," hung with old armour and weapons belonging to the time of the Civil War, and probably once used by the retainers of Sir John Dryden. There is here also a bust of the poet, which is said to have served as a model for that placed in Westminster Abbey. The principal apartments are on the garden front of the house. These are:—the *dining-room*, said to have been entirely floored and wainscoted with the timber of a single oak, which grew on the estate. In it are portraits of Sir William Cornwallis, temp. Elizabeth; Elizabeth Cornwallis, wife of Edward Allen, in the character of Diana; Elizabeth Allen, wife of Edward Dryden; and very fine crayon drawings of Mrs. Creed (the "cousin" to whom the poet writes (see *Tichmarsh*, Rte. 2)), and of the poet himself. The *library* opposite contains among its treasures a first folio of 'Shakespeare,' a curious volume of theology which may have belonged to the Priory, and several letters to and from Sir John Dryden (1640–1658), besides one from the poet. Over the library is the *drawing-room*, with a very remarkable ceiling, coved and enriched, and a chimney-piece of similar character. This was the work of Sir John Dryden (1632–1658); so that the tradition which asserts that the room was thus fitted for the reception of Anne of Denmark, who died in 1619, falls to the ground. The apartment opposite the drawing-room (30 ft. by 20 ft.) is hung with tapestry. Many other rooms contain tapestry, mostly of the 17th cent. From the top of the tower there is a very wide and striking view, extending over all this richly wooded portion of the country, to the borders of Oxford-

shire and Warwickshire on one side, and on the other to the forest heights of Whittlebury and Wakefield.

The evidently unbroken antiquity of the house, and the absence of all attempt at modern restoration, give Canons Ashby an interest which is altogether wanting to many a more famous mansion; and this feeling is not a little aided by the quiet beauty of the gardens, to which a doorway opens from the tower. Very fine old cedars spread their branches over flights of moss-grown steps, flanked by low walls of grey stone; and terrace after terrace, with lines of clipped yews, descends to gates, opening to a broad, grassy avenue. Beyond distant views of the country are caught between groups of trees. On one side is the church; on the other the deer park. The gateway pillars were made, and the gardens were much altered, about 1710. They are still much the same, however, as when Samuel Richardson, the novelist, paced them during his frequent visits here. It is said that much of 'Sir Charles Grandison' was written at such times; and it will be remembered that the home of Harriet Byron—where resided the "venerable circle" to whom she addressed her voluminous letters—is named in the novel "Ashby Canons." Another friend of the Drydens, according to the gossiping Aubrey ('Lives of Eminent Men') was the poet Spenser. There was a room in the house, he tells us, called "Mr. Spenser's chamber,"—and his wife (daughter of William Wilkes of Hodnell) was a kinswoman of Frances, wife of Sir Erasmus Dryden. It does not appear that John Dryden the poet was much at Canons Ashby. There is no reference to any visit here in his own letters; but we may believe, if we choose, that "as the poet certainly courted his cousin Honor Dryden, the eldest daughter of the



then baronet . . . . the old clipped yews and formal terrace and walled courtyard, which yet remain, have looked upon the light-hearted pair as they strolled along in that cousinly flirtation, so presumptuous in the eyes of Sir John, who saw nothing but a poor cadet in the future author of 'St. Cecilia's Day.'—*James*. It should here be added that the present kitchen garden, called the "Vineyard Garden," was probably the garden of the Priory; and that the small close adjoining it, having on two sides the "Canon's walk," was perhaps the monastic orchard.

In April, 1644, a party of Parliamentary infantry sent from Northampton to collect money in this neighbourhood took up their quarters in Sir John Dryden's house. A larger body of Royalists approaching from Banbury, the others secured themselves in the church of Canons Ashby, the door of which was forced by a petard. The Parliamentarians then took refuge in the tower, which they defended for two hours, but at last surrendered, and were all carried prisoners to Banbury.

At Adston, 2 m. N.E., is a small *Church*, dedicated to All Saints, of the 14th cent., with a very good arcade; the chancel was added circ. 1845. It was restored in 1896, when the gallery was removed from the W. end. The hamlet is picturesque and contains an old manor-house with clipped yews in front. The Harbys were long lords of the manor.

Another mile further is Maidford. The *Church* of St. Peter and St. Paul has E. E. portions; the tower is gabled and is one of the best examples in the district of this peculiar roofing.

Continuing by rail, and after passing the Great Central Rly., is

11½ m. Byfield (Stat.), a straggling but picturesque village, with the principal farmhouses of the parish gathered into it after the usual fashion of the county, lying (in part) on the old turnpike road, running from Daventry to Banbury. It stands on a broken plain, from which hills rise toward Daventry on one side, and toward Banbury on the other. The scenery has no grand or very impressive features; but, especially where the hills overlook Warwickshire and the great central plain of England, there is an old-fashioned home-like charm in the country, which is full of attraction.

The *Church*, dedicated to the Holy Cross, dates throughout between the years 1350 and 1400, but has more of late Dec. character than of Perp. The tower and spire are the latest portions. The whole, especially of the nave (interior), is very dignified; the dark colour of the local stone (the ironstone of the lias) contributing much to the effect. The clerestory lights are now Perp., but they have replaced circular windows with quatrefoils (placed unusually over the piers instead of over the arches), of which traces remain. A fine lofty arch opens to the tower. The chancel is much developed, with long, narrow windows, having peculiar decorated tracery, and nearly flat headings. At the W. end of the S. side is a square-headed low-side window. There is some very good woodwork; and the bench ends are noticeable. There are four stained-glass windows all modern. The ground slopes from the W. door, thus giving apparently additional height to the tower, which, with the spire, rises to 140 ft. It is in five stages, diminishing toward the top, and has multangular embattled turrets at the angles, which would seem heavy but for the height at which they are placed. The W. doorway is

richly moulded, and adorned with the ball-flower. There are also on this front three niches, with elaborate canopies. The S. porch, which projects considerably, resembles the tower; and the so-called Trafford aisle on the same side serves as a transept. This was apparently an addition. Trafford is an insulated portion of the parish, forming a distinct manor, which has been in various hands. The market cross forms a picturesque object, under a spreading elm-tree in the centre of the village.

Proceeding from Byfield the rly. passes on the rt. the villages of **Upper and Lower Boddington**. At the former the *Church* of St. John the Baptist, containing an ancient wooden chest, hewn out of one piece and bound with iron; there is also a *brass* with effigy to W. Proctor (d. 1627), a former rector.

Shortly afterwards the line leaves the county and enters Warwickshire, reaching at

**18½ m. Fenny Compton** (see *H.Bk. for Warwickshire*).

The road from Byfield to Banbury at once climbs high ground, and commands very wide views over parts of Oxfordshire and Warwickshire, with the steep descent of Edgehill conspicuous. Nearer Byfield is seen one of the large reservoirs formed for supplying the Birmingham and Oxford canal, which winds through the lower country. It is of considerable extent, and has all the appearance of a natural lake.

At about 2 m., a road turns rt. to **Aston-le-Walls**, so named from its position near a long line of vallum or entrenchment which extended at least from this place to Kirtlington, in Oxfordshire, a distance of 19 m.,

nearly in the line of the Portway, but a mile or two from it on the W. It is one of many earthworks and entrenchments in this neighbourhood, which call for full examination.

The *Church* of St. Leonard (restd. 1882) has a Trans.-Norm. tower and nave, with a Dec. clerestory. The chancel is Dec. The font, large and square, is Norm. There is a canopied recess of the 14th cent., with the effigy of a priest. On the wall of the N. aisle are *brasses* with effigies to Alban Butler (d. 1609) and his two wives; Alban Butler (d. 1617) and G. Butler (d. 1685). The manor-house was built by Wm. Plowden, temp. William III. He was a Romanist, and was very obnoxious to the "Whigs" of his neighbourhood, one of whom, Col. Montague, then living at Chipping Warden (see *post*), caused Mr. Plowden's six coach-horses to be seized and impounded at Banbury, under the act recently passed against nonjurors. He then quitted Aston in disgust, and although it remains in the possession of the Plowdens, it has never been inhabited by them since. There is a Rom. Cath. chapel here, maintained by the Plowdens. At **Appletree**, a hamlet in the parish, was born, 1710, Alban Butler, author of the 'Lives of the Saints,' first published in 1745 in 5 vols. 4to. The Butlers had at one time considerable property in this part of Northamptonshire, and there are numerous memorials to them in Aston Church (see *ante*).

By the side of the main road is what is called a "pack-horse stone," or mounting-block, with the date 1659, and an inscription to the effect that Thos. Hight, of Warden, set it up. It is a "leaping-on" stone.†

† In the County of Somerset, on the main road leading from Bristol to Wells, near Chew Magna, there is a somewhat similar block; but it bears no inscription.



1 m. beyond it is **Chipping Warden**, so named from a market granted to the lords of the place by Henry III., and continuing in use until at least the end of the following cent. The steps and base of the market cross remain in the village, overshadowed by a large elm-tree. Warden gives name to the hundred: and was the head of a barony held by service to the ward of Rockingham Castle. It descended through Reyncourts, Foliots, Ledets, Braybrooks, and Latimers; and there was a "Castle," or fortified manor-house here, of which some mounds and foundations may be traced in what is now the park of Edgcote. The Church of St. Peter and St. Paul is chiefly Dec. and Perp. The Perp. arcade is fine and lofty, with a clerestory of large windows. The N. aisle is late Dec., with a peculiar wheel-tracery in the windows; and there are some fragments of old glass. The broad S. aisle retains E. E. portions at the E. and W. ends; but the windows are Dec. (curvilinear). In the chancel is one E. E. window, the E. window being late Dec. On the N. side is what seems to be a stone credence (?), a shelf with battlemented edge, supported by a head of Edward III. as a bracket. Below the E. window is a reredos, formed as a long parallelogram, with open roses in the hollow moulding round it. The same battlemented moulding is carried along close under the window. At the E. end of the S. aisle are three sedilia, with a piscina eastward. At the E. angle of the N. aisle is a fine niche; and a curious hagioscope opens from the end of the aisle into what is now the vestry. There is a small mutilated brass for Richard Makepiece, yeoman (d. 1584). The tower is massive Perp., with a good W. doorway, and the window, in the stage above, has a niche on either side.

E. of the church is the *Manor*

*House*, built by the Saltonstalls in the 16th cent. By a marriage with the heiress of Saltonstall it passed to the 2nd Earl of Halifax (d. 1739). It retains many traces of its former splendour in the shape of woodwork and moulded ceilings, although much of the house has been pulled down. Here lived Colonel Montague, the "enemy" of the Plowdens of Aston.

Close beyond the village is the entrance to the grounds of *Edgcote House* (Aubrey T. C. Cartwright, Esq.). The park is picturesque, with very fine elms. The house, large and somewhat dignified, was built in 1752, and occupies the exact site of an earlier mansion, which, as is known from existing drawings, was of Tudor character, with a porch and porch-chamber carried to the roof, and raised on Ionic columns. One or two fragments lie about the walks; and in a plantation in the grounds is a curious group of four figures standing back to back; they are said to have been part of a sun-dial. In this house slept, before the battle of Edgehill, the king, and the two elder princes, Charles and James. They arrived here from Southam, in the evening of Oct. 22, 1642, and about 3 o'clock on the following morning (the Sunday of the battle), the king was roused by a messenger from Prince Rupert, with the news that the Parliament's army was at hand, and that Charles might fight at once if he chose to do so. Orders were at once issued for the march to Edgehill, to which Charles passed by cross roads. A considerable part of the royal army had encamped between the village of Edgcote and Cropredy, and returned to these quarters after the battle. The king's host on this occasion was Sir William Chauncy, the representative of a family which acquired Edgcote in 1543. His full-length portrait hangs in the hall, and represents him in

black, with long white stockings, open-work shoes with rosettes, collar and cuffs of lace, and a lace cap under his hat. In his right hand he carries a long staff. The inscription bears "Æt. 64. Ann. 1637." The bed in which the king rested is another relic of the house; and, since evident care has been taken to retain a carved headboard more ancient than the rest, this older portion may perhaps be regarded without much suspicion. Other portraits preserved here are those of William Henry Chauncy and wife, assigned to *Sir Joshua Reynolds*, and a very fine head of *Sir Joshua*, by himself. In the house is a tobacco-stopper made from the Boscobel oak, and inlaid with silver. On one side is the tree, with the words "sacer quercus"; on the other the head of Charles II. (It may be added that Cromwell, Earl of Essex, the minister of Henry VIII., was at one time lord of Edgcote, and that some part of the older house was built by him.)

Close to the mansion rises the *Church* (dedicated to St. James) of *Edgcote*, with a Perp. tower and W. doorway so like those at Chipping Warden that they must have been designed by the same architect. (A stoup is placed at the W. door, and another at the S.) The nave is separated from the S. aisle by a remarkable arcade of two arches, which are more Trans.-Norm. than E. E. On the capital of one of the piers is an arm with open hand. On the N. side of the chancel is a Perp. vestry with priest's room above it, approached by stairs in the N.W. angle. The church is rich in Chauncy monuments. At the E. end of the S. aisle is an alabaster altar-tomb, with effigies of Wm Chauncy (d. 1585), the purchaser of the manor, and wife, Joan Bustard. He is in plate-armour, but holds a small book in his hands. The

lady's dress deserves notice. Below, on another alabaster tomb, are the effigies of Sir Toby Chauncy (d. 1607), son of the preceding, and two wives. The costume is precisely the same as in the former case, and the two monuments must have been prepared at the same time. Above the tablet for "Richard Chauncy" (d. 1760) is his bust by *Rysbrach*. Observe also a slab placed above—"whatsoever was mortal of Bridget Chauncy, of whom man was not worthy" (d. 1730). The lady died unmarried.

South of Edgcote is the so-called valley (it is rather a plain) of Danes, or Duns, moor; and in the park is what Moreton describes as the "noted flush spring" of Padwell, as to which there ran an ancient saying:—

"If we can Padwell overgo, and Horestone  
we can see,  
Then Lords of England we shall be."

This "saying" is locally ascribed to the Danes before a great battle on the ground of Danesmoor,—hence so named. There was no doubt many a fight between Saxons and Danes in this part of England; but the chronicle does not record this one. Danesmoor was, however, undoubtedly the scene of a fierce fight in 1469, when "Robin of Redesdale" led a great body (it is said, 60,000) of "Northerners" in arms toward London, and encamped on Edgcote Hill, above Danesmoor. Here they were encountered by the Earl of Pembroke, marching from Banbury. The northern men were the stronger. Pembroke was taken prisoner, and a day or two after, John of Clapham, "that fierce Esquire," struck off the Earl's head (it is said) with his own hand, in the porch of Banbury Church. This victory opened the country to "Robin," or rather to the true leader of the expedition, Sir John Conyers of Hornby, in Yorkshire—"a man," says Hall, "of such courage and



valientness as few was in his daies in the north parts." The peasantry joined his men. They surprised Lord Rivers, the queen's father, and Sir John Widville, her brother, either at Grafton, or in Whittlebury Forest, and carried them to Northampton, where they were beheaded. Danesmoor is described by Hall as "a faire plaine near to a town called Hedgecote, and between three hills," Chipping Warden Hill, Edgcote Hill, and Culworth and Thorpe Hill.

There are some ancient remains in the neighbourhood of Chipping Warden and Edgcote which deserve attention. At and about a place called *Black Grounds*, on the N. side of the Cherwell,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. E. of the village of Warden, Roman relics have been found. Foundation walls, squared stones (some showing the action of fire), and a profusion of coins and pottery are turned up over an extent of nearly 39 acres. They probably mark the site of Brinavis, a station which, it is true, only occurs in an Itinerary (18th) of Richard of Cirencester, but which certainly agrees, as far as the distances are marked, with this place.

*Wallow Bank*, 1 m. N.W. of Black Grounds, is a small portion of a rampart, perpendicular on the W. and sloping toward the E., formed entirely of earth, and once no doubt extending much further.

1 m. due W. from Black Grounds is an entrenchment called *Arbury Banks*, of peculiar shape, with a circular mount on the outer line. There is no distant view; and it may, perhaps, be the site of a Saxon house. (The name "Arbury" is given throughout this district to many ancient camps or earthworks as in the neighbourhood of Badby (see Rte. 8).)

Continuing by rail from Towcester, on the line to Banbury, are

the churches of *Bradden*, *Abthorpe* and *Slapton*, not of much importance, before reaching at

**13 m. Wappenham (Stat.).** The village stands on high ground, and the *Church* of St. Mary has Norm. and E. E. portions. In it are the following *brasses*: an unknown man, in armour, circ. 1460, lower half lost; Sir Thos. Billing, Ch. Justice of the Court of Common Pleas (d. 1480), and wife (this brass was brought from Bittlesden Abbey after the Dissolution), portion lost; Constantia, wife of John Butler (d. 1499); unknown man, in armour, and wife, circ. 1500. The manor-house of *Astwell* in this parish belonged to the Shirleys, Earl Ferrars, and retains some Tudor portions, besides an embattled tower which may be earlier. The greater part of the house has been pulled down. In it was born, Aug. 13, 1707, the well-known Selina Shirley, afterwards Countess of Huntingdon, to whom George Whitfield was for some time chaplain.

**16 $\frac{1}{2}$  m. Helmdon (Stat.)** (there is another Stat. on the G. C. Rly.). The village is long and straggling, about equally divided on either side of the valley. The *Church*, dedicated to St. Mary Magdalene (restd. 1875), is a fine example of late 13th cent. The chancel is well lighted with five windows of different design. In the S. wall are three Dec. sedilia and a piscina, and in the N. wall an ambry. Under an arch in the wall of S. aisle is a granite tombstone, probably that of the founder, which formerly had a brass. There are some interesting brackets and dripstones. In the churchyard is an ancient yew, the butt of which is 28 ft. in circumference, and the branches cover a space of 76 ft. in diameter.

The parish was celebrated in the Middle Ages for its quarries of fine

oolitic freestone, which supplied the stone for the carved work in very many churches in the Midlands. At the rectory is an ancient oak mantelpiece, on which is a date which considerably exercised the antiquaries of the last century. It runs, A<sup>N</sup>. DO. MI 55—W, R or K in old English letters. The second Rector of Helmdon in the 13th cent. was Walter de Kancia, and William Renalde held the living from 1523 to 1560; the initials, however, probably refer to the latter.

1 m. S.E. of the church in the neighbouring parish of Felcott are the remains of a large British camp.

Continuing by rail the line passes the G. C. Rly., and 2½ m. further the village of Greatworth, standing on high ground on the rt. and commanding wide views. The small *Church* of St. Peter has an E. E. chancel and a Perp. tower. Beyond on the l. the line to Buckingham branches off, and at

21½ m. Farthinghoe (Stat.). The village is 1 m. S.E. The *Church* of St. Michael (restd. 1871) is chiefly a Perp. edifice. In the chancel is a Dec. piscina, and there is a hagioscope in the S. aisle. The tower contains five bells, one dated 1629, and another 1681, and two others 1722, and on the outside is a sun-dial dated 1654. The S. porch has open Dec. stone work at the sides. Philip Thicknesse, an eccentric traveller and writer, was born here in 1719. The "hoe" termination is one which is found in many other parts of England, especially in the eastern counties, and implies a low hill or rising ground. *Ouse well*, the source of the "greater" Ouse—one of the many rivers, which, rising in this central part of the island, find their way to the Eastern or Western sea

—is in a field at the foot of the hill descending E. from the village. It flows hence to Brackley, and then, in Drayton's words—

"From Brackley breaking forth, through  
soiles most heavenly sweet  
By Buckingham makes on; and crossing  
Watling street  
Shew with her lesser Ouze at Newport next  
doth twin,  
Which from proud Chiltern neare, comes  
eas'ly ambling in."

Thenford is 1½ m. N. of Farthinghoe Stat. The *Church* of St. Mary (restd. in 1877) has a Trans.-Norm. arcade with a Perp. tower. Chancel and aisles are Dec. There is some old stained glass. There is a Jacobean monument with effigy, assigned to Fulk Woodhull (d. 1613). He was the ancestor of Michael Woodhull (d. 1816)—a distinguished bibliographer, who was, says Dr. Dibdin, "profoundly versed in the volumes of Maittaire; and he who retaineth the information which such volumes possess may be said to lift his head very high in the atmosphere of bibliographical erudition." His library, one of great value and interest, remains in the *manor-house*, built by his father, and now the property of E. C. S. Severne, Esq. There are a few pictures, chiefly copies from Van Dyck; but the portrait of Charles I. dictating to Sir Edward Walker on the drumhead, can hardly be by, or after, that painter. There is an original portrait of Sir Charles Wandesford (Strafford's follower), Master of the Rolls in Ireland, 1639, in his robes. In *Seabridge Close*, about 600 yards N.W. from the church, is a large funeral pile formed of earth and rubble, where bones and urns have been found. Roman remains, in greater quantity than those of an ordinary villa, occur here.

1 m. E. of Thenford is Marston St. Lawrence. The *Church* of St. Lawrence is Dec., but the E. window



(and others of the chancel) show much of Perp. character. The side windows are of two lights, long and narrow, with transoms. On the N. side are the remains of a fine Holy sepulchre. The screen now separating the tower from the nave has on it the date 1610, and is an unusual example of such a screen at that period. It formerly served as a reredos. The nave arcade is Dec., and the tower Perp. The chancel contains many monuments for the family of Blencowe, including one for Sir John Blencowe, Judge in the Court of Common Pleas from 1697 to 1722, sedilia, and a piscina. In the S. aisle is an ambry. In the churchyard is a very large yew-tree, measuring 17 ft. 10 in. at the ground, and 21 ft. 9 in. at 6 ft. from the ground. The principal manor here belonged to the Carthusians of Shene, and on the Dissolution was granted to Thomas Blencowe. At the *Manor House* (J. A. Blencowe, Esq.) are many family portraits, including one of the Judge, in his robes.

2 m. N.W. of Farthinghoe Stat., on the road to Banbury, a pleasant, hilly district, affording occasional wide views, is **Middleton Cheney**, where is one of the best churches in this part of Northamptonshire, well deserving a visit. Ralph de Chenduit (corrupted into Cheney) was the son of Ralph, the Norman lord of Middleton at the time of the Domesday survey; and his descendants remained here until the accession of Edward I. The *Church of All Saints* is Dec. with a fine Perp. W. tower. It was restored (1865) by *Sir G. G. Scott, R.A.*; and the chancel was subsequently decorated, and stained glass inserted by *W. Morris*. The nave arcade, of four bays on either side, is very good and graceful, having stones of two colours—dark blue marl, and the local whitish oolite, in the arches. The sculptures

at the ends of the hood mouldings deserve notice. Among them occurs the wyvern crest of Thomas of Lancaster, the “mighty Earl,” beheaded at Pontefract in 1322, which gives a clue to the date of the church; and as William of Edyngdon (afterwards Bp. of Winchester) was rector of Middleton between 1327 and 1345, it may fairly be supposed that some part of the structure is due to him, who was everywhere a great builder. The general character is early Dec.; but the E. window, of which the tracery is very light and graceful, is so peculiar as to imply a designer of unusual skill, such as Edyngdon. On the S. side of the chancel arch is a great buttress, rendered necessary by a chapel added to the S. aisle in the late Dec. period. This weakened the main wall. The clerestory is Perp. and the S. porch is a late Dec. addition. It has a sharply pitched stone roof, with an inner arch, the space between which and the roof is filled with flamboyant tracery. Remark a curious niche, with square opening, on the E. side. There is a similar porch in the neighbouring church of *Chalcombe* (see *post*). The wooden doors may be Perp., as is the fine *tower*. This has a largely developed parapet, with eight pinnacles—a peculiar feature; four are at the angles of the parapet, and four at the base of the lofty spire which rises from the tower. The W. door is much enriched. Angels are laid into the hollow of the cornice; and its niches on either side are the Blessed Virgin and the angel Gabriel. On one of the bells (late 1639) is the inscription—

“Let Aaron’s bells continually be rung,  
The word still preached, and an Hallelujah sung.”

The ambry in the N. wall of the chancel has an inner locker. Seven of the windows were executed by *W. Morris*, after designs by himself, *Sir E. Burne-Jones*, and others. The W. window in the tower was entirely

designed by Burne-Jones in 1873, and contains his original design of the "Six Days of Creation," which he afterwards painted and exhibited in the Grosvenor Gallery in 1877.

The Chenduits alienated Middleton to the Bp. of Rochester, who long possessed the manor, and who may be supposed to have had some hand in the building of so fine a church. The advowson now belongs to Brasenose College, Oxford.

In the churchyard is an elaborate monument by *Earp* for members of the Horton family, erected in 1869. There was a fight in the "town field" of Middleton, 6 May, 1643, between the Earl of Northampton's cavalry and a large body of Parliamentarians, who were meditating an attack on Banbury. The latter were utterly defeated. The burial of forty-six soldiers is entered in the register, which dates back to 1558.

About 2 m. N.W. of Middleton is Chalcombe. The *Church* of St. Peter and St. Paul (restd. 1856) is late Dec. The porch is smaller than that of Middleton, but of similar character. The font is late Norm. circular, with intersecting arches as decorations round it.

*Chalcombe Priory* (C. P. Wykeham-Martin, Esq.) marks the site of a small house of Augustinian Canons founded in the reign of John. There are in the offices some very slight remains of old work.

The *Church*, dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul—consisting of a chancel and nave with aisles, which had, prior to the last restoration, a squint, also an aperture communicating with the chancel for confession—is Dec. The S. porch is deep, lofty, and groined. The massive tower contains six bells, which were cast in Chalcombe Foundry, where also the bells of several neighbouring churches, including Middleton Cheney, were cast by the same bell-

founder early in the 16th cent. In the churchyard are some remarkable and beautiful crosses, sculptured on stone slabs, in memory of former priors, amongst which that of "John Fearnall, brother of Corpus Christi Guild, Coventry, prior of Chalcombe, 1499." In the vicarage is fixed as a mantelpiece an oak carving of "The Annunciation," in bold relief, also busts of the Herods, said to have been removed from the ancient Priory.

2 m. W. of Farthinghoe Stat. is Warkworth, on the borders of Oxfordshire, and 2 m. E. from Banbury. Under the Local Government Act, 1888, Warkworth was, for certain purposes, transferred to Oxfordshire. The *Church* of St. Mary, although much injured by at least one restoration, well deserves a visit, if only for the sake of its monuments. The upper story of the tower and the wall of the N. aisle were rebuilt in 1841. A second restoration was completed in 1869. The chancel was then rebuilt, a new vestry and S. porch were added, and the whole building was newly roofed. The nave arcade (almost the only ancient portion remaining) is E. E. Some open seats of the 15th cent. have also been preserved; and are curious from the Latin inscriptions (from the Psalms and the Creed) at the backs. The ancient lords of Warkworth were Lyons, Chetwodes, and Holmans. Of the *monuments* the earliest belong to the Lyons, and are a cross-legged effigy of a knight in a hauberk of chain-mail, temp. Edward II.; a lady, of the same date, with veil and wimple; and the very fine altar-tomb of the last Sir John Lyons, living 1346. The tomb is unusually high and narrow, and has the arms of Lyons and other families along the sides. The effigy affords an excellent example of the military costume of the time of Edward III. The manner in which the moustache



is made to curl over the open helmet is a usual feature of the period. Here are also *brasses* for Sir John Chetwode (d. 1412), called on the inscription, "Mons. John Chetwode, Chivaler, qe. morust en la veile de Seint Richard"; for Amabilia, wife of Sir John Chetwode and afterwards of Sir Thomas Strange (d. 1430). She wears the horned head-dress, with a long, open mantle; John Chetwode (d. 1420); Margery Chetwode (d. 1420); and to William Ludsthorp (d. 1454).

The manor-house of Warkworth, ancient and stately, was pulled down in 1810.

Soon after leaving Farthinghoe, the railway reaches its terminus at

25½ m. ★ **Banbury** (see *H.Bk. for Oxfordshire*).

### *The Route by Road.*

Leaving Northampton by Bridge St. (Stat., L. & N. W. Rly.) and crossing the river Nene, the road turns to the rt. and ascends Hunsbury Hill and then descending to Milton (3¾ m.), and continues to ★ **Blisworth** (5¼ m.). From here it proceeds to ★ **Towcester** (9 m.), where it crosses the Roman road, Watling Street. At 2¼ m. from Towcester the road forks to the rt. to Silverstone (12¾ m.), and after passing Syresham reaches first, Brackley Stat., G. C. Rly., and then the town (20 m.), see Rte. 8. Passing through ★ **Brackley** to the G. W. Rly. Stat. the road turns to the rt. to Farthinghoe (23¾ m.). 1 m. beyond is the Stat., L. & N. W. Rly., and at 26¾ m. is Middleton Cheney. Shortly after the road quits the county and reaches ★ **Banbury** (29¾ m.).

## ROUTE 8.

### RUGBY TO BRACKLEY.

(GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY. 24 m.)

Rail.	Stations.
	<b>Rugby.</b>
11 m.	Charwelton.
14 m.	Woodford and Hinton.
17 m.	Culworth.
20½ m.	Helmdon.
24 m.	Brackley.

The Great Central Railway, after leaving Rugby Stat. on the Hillmorton Road, proceeds along the east border of Warwickshire and enters Northamptonshire to the west of Staverton (see Rte. 6), and a tract of high ground forming the watershed from which the streams flow in different directions; the Nene (of which the principal source is here) taking an easterly course; [Northamptonshire.]

the Leam flowing westward into Warwickshire, gives name to Leamington and then loses itself in the Ouse. The sources of these two rivers are not far distant, and are both on this ridge. The Warwickshire Avon rises farther north, close to Naseby; and the Welland, which runs northward, and for about 50 m. marks the border of Northamptonshire, rises at Sibbertoft, north of Naseby. The springs of the Cherwell, flowing S.W. toward the Thames, rise at Charwelton (see *post*). But all these springs rise from the same ridge of high ground, which is in fact the central watershed of Eng-

land. It is of no very great height, and does not attain to much more than 800 ft. above the sea-level; but it has here the reputation of being "the highest ground in England," and since Ingleborough and Helvellyn are far distant there is nothing within sight to dispute the claim. The highest point here is *Arbury Hill* (734 ft.), which lies rt. of the road from Staverton to Catesby, and is crowned by an entrenchment of which the lines have been much effaced. The outer bank, however, enclosing an area of about 12 acres, is still clearly traceable. This camp occurs as one of the boundary marks in a grant by Edmund the Elder (A.D. 944), "cuidam pontifici meo Ælfrico" (who may perhaps be Ælfric, Bp. of Hereford) of lands which now form the parishes of Badby, Dodford, and Everdon (Cod. Diplom. ii., No. 399). The "eald burh" is there called *Badanbyrig*, a name preserved in that of Badby, the church of which parish is seen below (see *post*). Arbury, by which name the hill and camp are now generally known, occurs in other parts of England (as in the neighbourhood of Chipping Warden in this county, see Rte. 7), in connection with ancient earthworks. "Studborough" is a third name sometimes given to this Arbury. (Studfall or Stotfall are names of circular earthworks at Aldborough and at Ambleforth in Yorkshire, and Studfall Castle is the name by which the Roman castrum at Lymne in Kent is known. The word seems to signify a "fallen place.") The views from Arbury Hill are fine and interesting, though hardly so extensive as those from Borough Hill. In one direction they extend to Rugby and Coventry; in another up the valley toward Brington and Northampton, over a wide tree-covered country. *Nene pool*, a source of the river, is a marshy swamp below the hill on the N.W.

*Catesby* lies very near the Warwickshire border, to the W. of the Rly. There was there a small priory of Benedictine nuns (they have also been called Cistercian and Gilbertine—the latter by Leland), founded by Philip de Esseby, son of Sasfrid, the proprietor recorded in Domesday Book. This priory lay at the foot of the hill, toward Warwickshire. On the hill-top was the parish church, pulled down after the Dissolution, with the exception of a small fragment of wall containing an E. E. window. The churchyard is still used. In it is a pyramidal monument for members of the Parkhurst family, for some time lords of the manor. John Parkhurst, the lexicographer (Greek and Hebrew), was born here in 1728, died 1797. From the churchyard there is a wide view into Warwickshire, with Shuckburgh Park conspicuous on one of the nearer hills.

A long elm avenue, picturesque in parts, descends the hill toward Lower Catesby, where stood the priory. Half-way down is a modern house, commanding very fine views, belonging to H. A. Attenborough, Esq. J.P. The priory itself stood quite on the low ground, and was succeeded by a manor-house of William III.'s time with cedar panelled rooms and much carving. This in turn has disappeared; the chapel which belonged to it, which was that of the priory, long served as the small parish *Church* of Catesby, but was pulled down in 1859, and replaced by the existing small structure dedicated to St. Mary, which contains portions of the old carving and woodwork. The pulpit and the woodwork of the seats seem to be of the time of Charles I. In the S. wall is a fragment of good ancient stonework (late Dec.), consisting of three richly canopied arches forming sedilia, and a piscina. Between



each arch is a smaller long recess in which is a figure. The priory was of no great wealth; but one of its prioresses was Margaret (d. 1257), sister of St. Edmund of Canterbury, and herself of great reputation for sanctity. Among other prioresses occur the unusual names of Amabilia, Biblisia, and Orabilis or Orabilla. The house was dissolved as one of the lesser monasteries, in spite of the recommendation of the commissioners, who found the prioress "a sure, wyse, discrete, and very relygious woman," and her "nunnys" no less excellent. The home and lands were granted first to John Onley, in whose family the manor remained until it was bought by the Parkhursts. The old stew ponds of the priory are still to be seen near the church.

About  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Catesby is **Hellidon**, a picturesque village, lying in the midst of broken and hilly ground. There is a very pleasant view from the churchyard; and from the vicarage, which is on higher ground, the prospect is still finer. The varied and crossing outlines of all this country are very striking; the hills rise abruptly from the high level, and portions of their sides, and the valleys are well clothed with wood, chiefly elm. The scenery is thoroughly English; quiet and contenting, and suggesting descriptions of the elder poets, Spenser, Milton, and Shakespeare himself. From the higher grounds the views which open in all directions are grand. The Malvern hills are distinctly visible in a clear day; and even the Wrekin in Shropshire is, it is said, sometimes to be distinguished. The source of the Leam is near the eastern entrance of the village, in such a "pool" as that from which the Nene emerges under Arbury Hill. The little Church of St. John the Baptist of Hellidon (*haligdun* = holy hill?)

is Dec. with a modern N. aisle and arcade, in which stone of different colours has been introduced. The chancel aisle was added (1897) in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria.

The railway passes through a long tunnel before reaching

**11 m. Charwelton (Stat.).** Here is the infant stream of the Cherwell, that "water-lilied" riveret, as Drayton calls it, which falls into the Isis at Oxford, and is so pleasantly remembered by all Oxford men. The true "Cherwell"—the "well" or spring which is the main source of the river—rises in the cellar of Cherwell house, a farm or grange about 1 m. left of the road. At the corner of the farmyard it forms a head, and a sufficient quantity of water is occasionally gathered to render necessary the ancient bridge over which the old foot and pack-horse road passed, and which remains by the side of the lower new one for the carriage-road, which formerly went through a ford. It has two sharply-pointed arches, with an angular projection or "cutwater" between; and may well be of the early date (about 1250) assigned to it. It is illustrated in Baker's 'History of Northamptonshire.' The famous Crowland Bridge (see Rte. 2) may be compared with it. The masonry of this on the Cherwell is good and massive. It is locally said to be the "highest bridge in England"; a "hard saying," which may be connected with a general belief that this part of Northamptonshire is the "highest ground" in England (see *Naseby*, Rte. 4). The village lies on the road. The Church of Holy Trinity is nearly 1 m. from the village, and is approached by a field-road. It is a Perp. edifice, and the nave arcade on the N. side has continuous mouldings, without capitals, running to the bases of the piers. On the S. the

arches are lower, and have octagonal piers with plain capitals. There are some good tombs and brasses, chiefly of the Andrew family, who for a long period held lands in Charwelton, under the abbot and convent of Thorney. (1) The earliest of these is the fine *brass* of Thomas Andrew, "Mercator," and his wife, daughter and heiress of Richard Clarell. This Thomas Andrew died in 1496; but the date on the brass is incomplete, and it is probable that it was prepared in his lifetime. He is in a close merchant's gown, bordered with ermine, as is the lady's robe. Above the rich canopy are two angels kneeling by the shield of Andrew. Below are lines which partly run, "En Thome ossa Andrewe hee continet fossa, De terra facta protinus in terram redacta, Civibus sanctorum me jungat rex Angelorum." Below again are small figures of sons and daughters. The whole brass is curious, and may have been the work of some local engraver. (2) Thomas Andrew, son of the former Thomas, and wife. She died 1490, he circ. 1530. The brass is, however, of the former date. He is described as "generosus," and is in a suit of tournament armour. There are curious lines, as on the brass of his father, and the work must be by the same engraver. (3) Thomas Andrew, "armiger," son of the former (d. 1541), and wife. He is in plate-armour. This brass is much smaller than the others. (4) In the N. chapel is a fine altar-tomb, with effigies of Sir Thomas Andrew (d. 1563) and two wives. He is in plate-armour, bare-headed, and wears a collar of SS. On panels at the sides of the tomb are arms and quarterings of Andrew. (5) On the western wall of the N. aisle is a lofty mural monument, of Reigate stone, for Thomas Andrew, "Esq.," and two wives. This was erected in 1590. Thomas Andrew

himself died in 1594. There are figures of husband, wives, and twelve children, in various attitudes; the whole so well and freely designed, and displaying a "naturalism" so rare in English monumental sculpture of the period, that it has been suggested the work may be that of some Italian artist. The progress marked in the inscription on the brasses—mercator, generosus, armiger, miles—is noticeable, as indicating the gradual rise of the family. Close to the church is *Bittlesden* manor-house (so called from the land here having belonged to Bittlesden Abbey, in Bucks), partly built by the family of Adams, which was here between 1630 and 1702. It contains a graceful oak staircase, and a handsome panelled oak room, the frieze of which is carved with some curious grotesque figures, which seem to be of Flemish workmanship. The church stands nearly a mile from the village of Lower Charwelton; and John Rous, in his 'Historia Regum,' written temp. Hen. VII., laments that persons travelling toward London from Warwick no longer found a harbour at Church Charwelton, since the place had been depopulated by enclosure of land. They were obliged to pass through Lower Charwelton.

2 m. N.E. of Charwelton Stat., and about 5 m. from Daventry, is *Fawsley Park*. The road turns off at the village of *Badby*, where is a Dec. *Church*, dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, of no very great interest. A remarkable Perp. clerestory has been added, the ten windows of which are continuous, with no wall spaces between them. From the village the road (commanding pleasant views) ascends towards the entrance of *Badby wood*. This wood is a famous fox-covert and a well-known "meet." It is closely timbered, and is rich in wild-flowers. Walks have been cut through it, and the main drive ex-



tends through the wood to the open park. This covers about 300 acres, and is well stocked with deer. It is varied and well-wooded, and from many points there are very beautiful views over this hilly and wooded part of Northamptonshire. In the park, and passed, *rt.*, on the way to the hall, is the "Lodge" which served as the dower-house of Fawsley, and is now a very picturesque ruin. It is of red brick with stone-dressings, gables, and a turret, and may have been built within the first twenty years of the 16th cent. The chimneys are various in design, and deserve notice. The ruin is thickly clothed with ivy, too much so to please the antiquary, since the walls yet standing are considerably endangered by it. There are fine trees round the ruins, which afford an excellent subject for the artist. The Lodge was last inhabited by Lady Anne Knightley, who died in 1704. The "Knightley breed" of cattle was, and still is, famous. The late Sir Charles Knightley was a great patron of agriculture and cattle-breeding.

**Fawsley** (Lady Knightley of Fawsley)—in Domesday *Falelay* and *Falewesle*—was in very early times the head of a great district, out of which many of the neighbouring parishes were afterwards formed. The two hundreds of Gravesend and Eigelweardsle long paid "church shot" to Fawsley, thereby recognising it as their ecclesiastical head. The King held the lordship at the time of the Domesday survey; and families of Russell, Capes, and Fawsley possessed it until, in 1415, the manor was bought by Richard Knightley, whose descendants have since retained it. The house of Knightley is one of the very few in England which can prove an undoubted descent from an ancestor recorded in Domesday—Rainald, lord of Knightley (*Chenistelei*) in Staffordshire, whose son William

assumed the local name. Ever since the Knightleys have been distinguished as the owners of broad lands and the contractors of many fortunate marriages ("tu, felix Austria nube"). The achievement which hangs at the end of the great hall bears no less than 334 quarterings. The house has been much altered and added to, the latest additions having been made within the last 35 years, and not without good architectural effect. The earliest portions of the house seem to be of the first half of the 15th cent., when the Knightleys first came here. The great hall, which, with its oriel, is now the most striking feature, may be later, perhaps about 1500. The original entrance to the hall was at the S. end (from the west); but this doorway has been built up. Opposite to it, and leading into the butteries and kitchens, was another door, which has been removed farther to the N., and the original opening has been built up. On the kitchen side of the hall, however, the arch of the doorway remains, and the spandrels are filled in, one with floriation, the other with two dogs gnawing a bone. The kitchens, which are worth attention, seem to be of the same date as the hall. The oriel in the latter is placed, very unusually, some way down from the dais end. It contains some old glass with shields of arms, and is much enriched on the exterior. The windows and ceiling have been altered. The great chimney, with wide arch, and a very rich cornice above it, sculptured with grapes and foliage, and a projecting bracket, representing a stag's head amid twisted branches, is striking. Above the oriel is a small chamber, now inaccessible, except by a ladder, but once reached by a staircase, whether within or without is doubtful. In this chamber it is said that some of the 'Martin Marprelate' tracts were printed. These were anonymous

pamphlets, issued from a secret press, written in support of the Puritans, whom the Government were trying to suppress. The first appeared in 1588, the year of the Armada. The printer was one Waldegrave, who set up his movable press first at Moulsey, in Surrey, then at Fawsley, afterwards at Norton, another seat of the Knightleys, then at Coventry and at Woolstan in Warwickshire. Sir Richard Knightley was examined before the Council of the Star Chamber, and confessed that "at his house at Fawsley a book called the 'Epitome' was printed. . . . Touching the author of the book he knoweth not, unless it were Penry"—a young Welshman, who died in prison after the press had been seized. The Knightleys at this time, and later, supported the cause of the Puritans. Richard Knightley married the eldest and favourite daughter of Hampden, and at Fawsley, before the outbreak of the Civil War, many conferences took place between the chief Parliamentary leaders. It is said that a printing-press was again at that time set up in the secret chamber. (See *Nugent's* 'Memorials of Hampden'.)

In the *dining-room* are *portraits* of Thomas Lord Grey of Groby, full-length, in armour, a page carries his helmet; Charles XII. of Sweden, full-length; Sir Richard Knightley, 1567 (æ. 33), the patron of the "Marpelate" press. His dress is yellow, with black cloak and ruff. At the back of the portrait are the lines:—

"IN VITA FORTUNA.

"So hitherto, by helpe of heavenlie powers,  
My doubtfull life have runne his posting  
race;  
Whos recklesse youth have passed such  
stormie showers  
As might have cuted me off in halfe this  
space,  
Yet mightie Jove, by his celestiall grace,  
Hath brought my barke to such a blisfull  
shore  
As daylie doth advance me more and more.  
In vita Fortuna."

Here are also his wife, Lady Eliz. Seymour (youngest daughter of the Protector Somerset); and Lucy Knightley, Esq., in a masquerade dress, by *Sir Joshua Reynolds*. There are other portraits of less interest.

The *drawing-room* contains a nymph and infant Bacchus, sculptured at Rome in 1866 by *G. M. Benzeni*.

Some large pieces of artificial water adjoin the house, and the ancient and interesting *Church* of St. Mary is at no great distance, almost hidden by trees, consisting of a short nave, chancel, and N. and S. aisle. These may be E. E., and a small E. E. portal deserves notice. There are some curious carvings on the bench-ends, and some 16th-cent. glass. The *monuments* are—S. side of nave, towards the E.—an altar-tomb with effigies of Sir Richard Knightley (d. 1534), and his wife, Joanna Skinerton. He is in armour, with collar of SS., and bareheaded. The effigies, in alabaster, are finely sculptured, and have been coloured. The altar-slab is black. There are small alabaster figures of weepers at the sides. On the pavement of the nave is the *brass* of Thomas Knightley (d. 1516); and *brasses* (half-lengths) of Sir Edmund Knightley (d. 1542) and his wife Ursula Vere. In the N. aisle is a massive monument commemorating three generations, and by no means to be admired—Sir Valentyne (d. 1566); his son Sir Richard, of the "Marpelate" press (d. 1615); his son, a second Sir Valentyne Knightley (d. 1618); and Sir Valentyne's brother, Sir Francis Knightley (d. 1619), are recorded in the inscriptions. There are many other Knightley memorials in the church, but these are the principal. (A full and accurate pedigree of the Knightleys will be found in Baker.) Among the *vicars* of Fawsley occurs *John Dod* (1624–1645); "By nature," says Fuller, "a witty, by industry a learned, by grace



a-godly divine." Dod was a famous Puritan, and was occasionally, both here and at Canons Ashby (where he had been rector), silenced for non-conformity. He is best known as the "Decalogist," from his exposition of the Ten Commandments; and he was, according to tradition, the preacher of a sermon on the word "Malt"—the text having been suggested by certain Cambridge students, who caught him on the high road, and compelled him to preach from the stump of a hollow tree. (This sermon will be found in 'Memorials of the Rev. John Dod,' reprinted at Northampton (Taylor), 1875.) "The worthy sayings of old Mr. Dod" had a great provincial reputation, and were often pasted on cottage-walls. Another vicar was *John Wilkins*, afterwards Bishop of Chester, one of the projectors of the Royal Society, and author of some curious books, among which 'A Discovery of a New World' (the moon), 'with a Discourse concerning the possibility of a passage thither,' was written at Fawsley. "Old Mr. Dod" was his maternal grandfather, and Wilkins was born here at his house.

About 3 m. S.E. from Charwelton Stat., across a tract of wooded country, is seen on a hill the *Church* (restored), dedicated to St. Peter and St. Paul, of **Preston Capes**. The S. arcade dates from about 1200, the N. from 1300; while the rest of the building is Perp. The tower seems to be an addition, since it is joined to the segment of an arch. The ground falls very steeply to the W.; and, after the completion of the nave, it was perhaps found that there was not room for the tower without the destruction of the half arch. Remark the stoup in the porch. (One remains also at *Edgcote*, see Rte. 7.) The view from the churchyard is very beautiful, extending over much broken ground to the park and woods of Fawsley

(see *ante*). On a hill near the church stood a castle said to have been built by Hugh de Leycestre, the recorded Domesday lord. He also founded a priory here, which he afterwards moved to Daventry (see Rte. 6). Of the castle only the keep mound remains; and this may very well be of earlier date than the Conquest, and mark the site of an English "strong" house. The Roman or Romanised *Portway* running between Benaventa (Daventry) and *Ælia Castra* (Alcester in Oxfordshire), passed through this parish, and some traces are to be found near the hill S. of the church.

**14 m. Woodford and Hinton** (Stat.; a loop line here connects the G. C. Rly. with the E. & W. Junct. Rly.). The village of ★ **Woodford Halse** lies to the E. of the Stat. The *Church* of St. Mary has an E. E. arcade on the N. side, and a Dec. on the S. The old oak carving is worthy of notice. In the chancel is a stone effigy of a lady, discovered when the church was restored in 1878. There is a *brass* with the effigy of a priest, M. Stafford (d. 1400). This parish, the greater part on gravel soil, is an exceedingly healthy one, and is patronised by visitors wishing fine air and quiet retreat. Hinton is a hamlet on the W. side of the Rly.

Continuing by rail, after crossing the East and West Junction Rly., and passing another connection with this line, on the rt. is the village of

**Eydon**, 2 m. S. from Woodford Stat. The village is pretty, with many old houses among trees (remark the fine view toward Byfield from the ridge called Eydon Moor). The *Church* of St. Nicholas has Trans.-Norm. portions (as the pier at W. end of N. arcade); and a Dec. arcade on the S. side; but the greater part is modern, and due to a restoration and enlargement in

1865. There is a curious and much enriched Norm. font, and in the vestry a very mutilated stone effigy of a lady, one of the Wake family, temp. Edw. II. The old stocks and also an ancient cross stand near the church. *Eydon Hall* (T. W. Holland, Esq., J.P.) was built by the Annesleys about 1780. (The design by Lewis is engraved in Campbell's 'Vitruvius Britannicus.') It contains some family portraits, including one by *Opie*. The grounds are pleasantly wooded, and the gardens, French in style, are interesting. Views are obtained by cutting through groups of trees, after the fashion shown in some of Watteau's pictures.

Here a line to Banbury branches off.

17 m. *Culworth* (Stat.). The village lies 2 m. S.W. The *Church* of St. Mary (restd. 1880) contains a black and white marble 18th-cent. monument to the D'Anvers family. There are many modern windows of stained glass; and the pulpit is of carved work, temp. James I. In the village are the base of a cross raised on many steps; the dilapidated manor-house, long the residence of the D'Anvers family, and showing portions of Tudor chimneys and gables; and a curious sign, carved in stone, over an old grocer's shop, having, within a squared border, a sugar-loaf and a "whisk" or small broom—the whole is locally described as a "spickett and fossett." (For a notice of the so-called "Culworth gang" of highwaymen, see *Sulgrave, post.*)

*Berry Mount Hill*, in a close N. of the churchyard, marks, according to a tradition of the place, the site of a castle held by a family which was named from the manor (de Culworth) and continued here until the reign of Edward I.; but a careful examination may perhaps show that these mounds, of which there are several in the neighbourhood, were

those of fortified houses older than the Conquest.

Near to Culworth is a portion of Banbury Lane, a very ancient trackway running across this part of England in a direction from S.W. to N.E. It follows high and low ground indifferently.

*Sulgrave*, 2½ m. from Culworth Stat., and 3 m. N.W. of Helmdon Stat., is famous as the home of Laurence Washington, the founder of the Northamptonshire family of that name, and the direct ancestor of President Washington. He was a member of a family resident at Warton and Whitfield, in Lancashire, and was Mayor of Northampton in 1532 and 1545. The manor of Sulgrave was granted to him in 1538, on the Dissolution of the Monasteries, and the limestone manor-house which he built stands at the extreme eastern end of the village. The house is usually approached from the N. from the village street, but the only original portion of it is that on the further side, facing S., and running E. and W. Its most interesting feature is the high-gabled porch, and the entrance has a four-centred arch under a square head and label. In the two spandrils are the Washington arms. "Over the entrance on the outside," to quote Sir Henry Dryden's description, "is a shield embossed in plaster, but its contents cannot be determined. Above this, also in plaster, are the Royal arms, with a lion and griffin or dragon as supporters. Above them are some embossed plaster-work and E. R. Queen Elizabeth had as supporters a lion and dragon, but the difference between dragon, griffin, and wyvern were not well observed." Inside the porch the lion and dragon are seen again, embossed, on either side, in plaster. The hall of the house, running E. at right angles to the porch, is now divided into



two rooms. Its large southern window was formerly mullioned, and adorned by Washington shields, which are now at Weston Hall (Rte. 7). "It is evident that the E. wall of the hall was not an outside wall; and it is stated that the house extended about 70 ft. to the E. of the present wall." The wing of the house now running N. at right angles to the hall is a later addition, the original house having been arranged, and at least partly built, on a different and more elaborate plan, which it is probable that Laurence Washington was unable to complete. His son (Robert) and his grandson (Laurence) migrated to Brington at the beginning of the 17th cent., and finally sold the Sulgrave estate in 1610. (See Rte. 5, where the directness of President Washington's descent from the Washingtons of Sulgrave and Brington is shown.)

At the E. end of the S. aisle of the *Perp. Church*, dedicated to St. Mary, is the slab of grey stone which Laurence Washington put down as a memorial of himself and his family, and which formerly bore six *brasses*. Three only of these *brasses* remain, viz., Laurence Washington's own effigy (now headless), a shield containing the Washington arms, and the inscription which runs as follows:—"Here lyeth buried y<sup>e</sup> bodys of Laurence Wassingtōgent & Amee his wyf by whome he had issue iiij sons & vij daughts w<sup>e</sup> laurence Dyed y<sup>e</sup> day of an<sup>o</sup> 15 & Amee Deceased the vj of October an<sup>o</sup> Dni 1564." The three other effigies (those, namely, of his wife, of his sons in a group, and of his daughters in another group) have at different times been forcibly removed: incisions in the slab show where once they stood. "The effigy of Laurence Washington was, when complete, about 1 ft. 7 in. high, and that of the wife somewhat less. He is draped in a loose gown or over-

coat, open in front, with pendant sleeves, bordered with fur, under which he wears a frock coat, fastened up to the throat, and confined by a girdle. The hands are in the attitude of prayer. The shoes are of the broad-toed form common at this period." It is evident from the inscription that Laurence Washington put down the monument after his wife's death, and left space for the date of his own death, which occurred on the 19th February, 1584. The brass shield containing the Washington arms has been enamelled. The arms (identical with those on the porch at the manor-house) are: Argent, 2 bars gules, and in chief three mullets of the second. "This, in ordinary English, means a white shield, crossed with two red stripes, and towards the top three red stars, or rather, spur rowels." It is difficult to believe that the "stars and stripes" of the American flag were not derived from this coat; but the history of that flag is fairly well established, and one must be content to see in the form of the arms nothing more than a "suggestion" of the form of the flag. On the S. porch of the church is a stone inscribed "1564. E. R." W. of the churchyard is a raised mound, with part of the fosse which surrounded it, the remains of an ancient mansion or castle.

About 1 m. to the N. of the village is a tumulus, called Barrow Hill, from which, according to Morton, "nine counties do present themselves to one view." (These are Northants., Warwicksh., Worcestersh., Oxfordsh., Gloucestersh., Berks., Bucks., Beds., and Herts.) The base is 25 yds. by 19 yds., the summit 12 yds. by 10 yds. The ash-tree, which formerly flourished on the summit, was famous centuries ago as a witch haunt, and the people of Sulgrave wished to cut it down. But after they had

climbed the hill, and had begun their work, they saw their village, to all appearance, in flames, and returned in haste. Meanwhile the witches repaired the injury done to the tree, and it was preserved. In the second half of the last century, Sulgrave was the resort of a gang of highwaymen who for twenty years were the terror of Northamptonshire. They were known as the "Culworth Gang," since many of them lived in that village. The parish clerk of Sulgrave was one of the most daring among them, and he always carried pistols in church, fearing that an attack might be made on him there, since it was in Sulgrave church that the stolen goods were for the most part hidden. Another of the gang was a man named Gilkes, son of very respectable parents in the neighbourhood, who joined for the sake of "excitement and romance." Two of them who were taken at Towcester, made a confession which led up to the breaking of the whole business, and four of the gang were hanged at Northampton, Aug. 3, 1787.

1½ m. S.W. of Culworth is **Thorpe Mandeville**, finely situated on high and broken ground, commanding wide views over a richly wooded country. The place is named from the Mandevilles, its early possessors (they sold it temp. Edward I.). The *Church* is chiefly Dec., and the tower has a gabled or "pack-saddle" roof. This gable rises flush with the W. wall. On the other sides it is set inward, and there is a passage round. On the exterior of the E. wall is a carved representation of St. John the Baptist, to whom the church is dedicated. In the chancel is an ambry with its original door, and a piscina with a wooden shelf. On the S. side are a low-side window and a modern mosaic representing St. Nicholas. In the N. aisle is a

mural monument with effigies of Thomas Kirton (d. 1601), Common Sergeant of the City of London, his wife Mary (d. 1597), and twelve children. In the churchyard is a grand old yew-tree; and in a field W. of the church some mounds mark the site of the old manor-house belonging to the Kirtons. This house was strengthened and garrisoned by Cromwell, who was first cousin of Mrs. Kirton; and the mounds were thrown up by him.

24 m. ★ **Brackley** (Stat.; also a Stat. on the Bletchley and Banbury branch of the L & N. W. Rly.), an ancient municipal borough, lying on the side, and along the summit of a hill, below which runs the stream of the Ouse. The first charter confirming the liberties of the borough, is undated, but belongs to the reign of Henry III. It is said to have been made a staple for wool, temp. Edward II., and it was undoubtedly at that time a place of some commercial importance, although all signs of this had vanished when Leland visited what he calls the "pore towne." It belonged to a portion of the Honour of Leicester, which was afterwards merged in the Honour of Winchester; and its feudal lords—de Quinceys, Zouches, Stanleys, and others, had a castle here, which at an early period fell into decay, and the site of which is now marked alone by the name of the hill where it stood. Brackley returned two members to Parliament from the reign of Edward VI. until the disfranchisement of the borough under the Reform Bill of 1832. On the death of William Stanley, 6th Earl of Derby, in 1642, his estates not settled in "tale male" were divided among his daughters, one of whom, Frances, became the wife of John Egerton, son of the Lord Chancellor Ellesmere. In view of this marriage Lord Ellesmere chose



Brackley for the title of his own viscounty; and his son John, succeeding, became second Viscount Brackley and first Earl of Bridgewater. The titles were revived (Earl of Ellesmere and Viscount Brackley) in 1846 in favour of the second son of the first Duke of Sutherland. Brackley does not stand on any great line of ancient road; but the place is named in connection with the gathering of the barons in the reign of John, and again during the War of the Barons of Henry III. In 1215, after the barons had met at Stamford, they proceeded with a large army to Brackley, where they halted for some days. John was at Oxford, and sent to Brackley to learn the claims of the barons. He refused their demands; and Robert Fitz Walter was then, at Brackley, chosen their leader, "Marshall of the army of God and of Holy Church." They marched thence to Northampton. (This, it need hardly be said, was the beginning of the "Magna Charta" struggle.) In 1264 Simon de Montfort and his adherents met at Brackley Sir John de Valencinis, the representative of the King of France, to whose arbitration they had agreed to refer the questions in dispute between them and King Henry. It is probable that Brackley Heath, a large tract of open ground, being centrally placed, was (with the De Quincy Castle) the reason for the selection of this place on both occasions. It was chosen by the Parliamentary general, the Earl of Essex, for the rendezvous of his army in 1643, when he marched for the relief of Gloucester, which the King was besieging. In 1642, after the royal standard had been raised at Nottingham, three troops of horse, under the command of Sir John Byron and his brothers, were detached to Oxford. They were attacked and routed at Brackley by

the country people, who got "two hats full of gold, about 2000*l.* in silver, a packet of "rich cloaths of Sir John Byron's, worth 200*l.*," many horses and other plunder.

Among the many objects of interest in Brackley stands first the Church of St. Peter, the E. E. tower of which is very fine. Above the W. door are three lancets, two of which are blind niches, retaining much-worn figures. In the stage above is a single lancet; and the belfry stage is much enriched with arcades and bracketing. The rest of the church is mainly late Dec. and Perp. There is an eastern Lady Chapel, with crypt. A second church, dedicated to St. James, which contained Norm. work, stood near the Rly. Stat., but has been pulled down. A modern chapel has been erected on the site. In the town is the *Magdalen College School*, founded and endowed by Wm. of Wainflete in 1447, and reorganised in 1860. It took the place of the hospital of St. John, founded by Robert, Earl of Leicester, soon after the Conquest. The old buildings have entirely disappeared; but the chapel, with Trans.-Norm. and E. E. portions, remains, and has been restored at considerable cost. During the plague in Oxford, temp. Henry VIII., the master and fellows of Magdalen College removed to this hospital.

On a table-land called *Bayards'* (*i.e.* horses') *Green*, S. of the Ouse, near the mill in Evelyn parish, between Brackley and Mixbury, a tournament was held in 1194.

The *Manor House* is a residence of the Earl of Ellesmere.

1½ m. W. of Brackley is *Hinton-in-the-hedges* (the name indicating ancient enclosure). The Church of Holy Trinity has a Norm. tower with a good arch opening to nave, and a Norm. font. The whole church was restored, and the chancel

partly rebuilt, in 1869. There is a brass for Sir William Saunders (d. 1452), and altar-tombs with rough effigies of a knight and lady, temp. Edward III.—probably belonging to a family which assumed the local surname and remained here until the beginning of the reign of Henry IV.

2 m. N. is *Steane*. The Church of St. Peter is a 17th-cent. rectangular edifice with a decorated parapet, but without chancel on tower. The crimson velvet coverings of the altar, reading-desk, and pulpit belonged in the time of Charles II. to the Chapel Royal, St. James'. They were given as well as the Bible and Prayer-Book by Lord Crewe, Bishop of Durham. There are also six prayer-books having the royal insignia of William III. The S. aisle separated from the nave by oak gates contains monuments to the Crewe family. On the N. side is a massive altar-tomb with a canopy with effigies beneath of Sir Thomas Crewe (d. 1633), Speaker of the House of Commons, and Temperance, his wife (d. 1619). Another tomb with marble busts beneath a pediment supported by columns to Thomas, Lord Crewe (d. 1697); a tablet to Nathaniel, Lord Crewe, Bishop of Durham (d. 1721), and Dorothy, his wife (d. 1715), and several others. Suspended from the walls are standard, helmets, and gauntlets.

*Steane Park* (W. H. Norris, Esq.), with a good residence, consists of about 100 acres.

6½ m. W. of Brackley is *King's Sutton* (Stat., Birmingham branch of the G. W. Rly., 6 m. S. of Banbury). This was the head of an enormous parish, the earlier history of which it would be well worth while to trace, since it included within its range the town of Buckingham with its hamlets on the east, and Horley and Hornton

in Oxfordshire on the W., thus giving a "stretch" of between 20 and 30 miles. It was not until the 15th cent. that either Buckingham or the Oxfordshire chapelry was erected into a distinct vicarage. Sutton was part of the royal demesne from a period before the Conquest to 1156. It is probable therefore that the great extent of the parish marks it as little cultivated, and as having been, if not actual "royal forest," yet, in the main, wooded hunting ground. In 1156 the king had granted it to Richard Camville; whose daughter Idonea married William Longespé, son of the first Longespé, Earl of Salisbury. The manor of Sutton passed through various hands until it was bought in 1735 by the then Attorney-General, Sir John Willes, afterwards Lord Chief Justice. In his family it remains. There was also a prebendal manor, granted by Henry I. to the church of Lincoln; and the prebend thus formed was the richest of any in the kingdom except that of Masham in Yorkshire. This golden stall of "*Sutton, cum Buckingham, Horley, and Hornton*," was surrendered to the crown temp. Edward VI. Under these circumstances it is not surprising to find a fine church at Sutton. The spire is a landmark throughout the district. Much of the Church of St. Peter is early Perp., but the arcade is Norm., and the sedilia—six stalls divided by circular columns with plain capitals—on either side of the chancel have E. E. shafts. (The semicircular arches are conjectural restorations by *Sir G. G. Scott, R.A.*) The tower and spire, however, with the W. front of the church, are the finest portions. These are early Perp. The tower has at each angle a pinnacle with crocketed canopy and finial 18 ft. high, from which springs a flying buttress intersected in its progress to the spire by another pinnacle, similar in design to the



outer one, but 7 ft. higher. The effect is to give great richness to the base of the spire, which rises to a height of 100 ft. above the tower, with crocketed ribs, and a band of ornament more than half-way up. Below the parapet of the tower, in the centre of each side, is one of the Evangelistic emblems. The whole church was "repaired" in 1842. In 1866 the chancel was restored by *Sir G. G. Scott, R.A.* Memorial windows for members of the Willes family have been inserted; and an oaken screen designed by Scott, separates the nave from the chancel. The ancient font is Norm. hexagonal, and of great size. It is now in the S. porch, the font in use being modern. The sole monument worth notice is for members of the Freke family, by *Bacon, jun.* It represents the triumph of the Saviour over death. (The life-sized figure of the Saviour is very fine, and contrasts remarkably with the inferior work of the rest of the design.) Of this church the father of William Lisle Bowles was for some time vicar; and the poet was born here in 1762. The old stocks still stand near the church.

The *Manor House* (W. A. Willes, Esq.) is a picturesque gabled mansion, on the S. side of the churchyard. There is a story that Charles I. was "at some time" concealed in it, but this can only be one of the floating civil war traditions of which this part of the country is full. The house contains some interesting family portraits, including one of Lord Chief Justice Willes, by *Jarvis*. There are also full-lengths of George II., Frederick, Prince of Wales, and Augusta, Princess of Wales—presents from the Prince to the Chief Justice.

At an early period *King's Sutton* was rendered illustrious by the birth of a saint. This was St. Rumwold, or St. Rumbald, not to be confounded with the Irish saint of the same

name, the patron of Mechlin. The St. Rumbald of Sutton was the son of the King of Northumbria, by a daughter of Penda of Mercia. He was born in 662; was baptized by Bp. Widerinus (?), lived three days, died at Sutton, and was buried there. During those three days, however, this least of the saints discoursed, in Fuller's words, "of all the common places of Popery," having been gifted with speech from his birth, at which he cried aloud three times, "I am a Christian." It is said, too, that he had been moved to Brackley for one day of his life, and that he preached there. Thither his body was afterwards translated by the mysterious Widerinus, and thence it was removed to Buckingham, where it attracted hosts of pilgrims. At King's Sutton, St. Rumbald had a well and a chapel; the latter "defaced and taken down" when Leland wrote. His well was that afterwards known as *Astrop Well*, a medicinal spring, said to have been discovered about 1664, and at one time much frequented by visitors, who had balls, cards, and "ordinaries," after the fashion of other watering-places. All this has passed away since the beginning of the present century; although the water, strongly impregnated with iron, no doubt retains all its former efficiency. The road which passed the well was diverted about 1866, by consent of the parish, on condition that a facsimile of the old building should be placed by the new road side, and that the water should be conveyed thither in pipes. This has been done, but with indifferent success. *Astrop House* (Sir W. R. Brown, Bart.) stands in a picturesque park, and was originally built by Chief Justice Willes. It has been enlarged by its present owner.

There are some tumuli in this parish, known as the "Lows"; and in a field, called "Black Lands piece," many rude cists have been

found, containing skeletons. Roman coins have also been found, and in such quantities that it is said they were carried away in buckets. They are known in the village as "Blackland pence."

2 m. E. of King's Sutton is **Newbottle** (*bott* = a house, A.-S.). The hill behind the church commands a very wide view, in which are included the three spires, locally celebrated as "Adderbury for strength, Bloxham for length, and King's Sutton for beauty." The two former are in Oxfordshire. The Church of St. James has Norm. portions, but is chiefly of the 14th cent.; the tower of the 15th cent. In the chancel is a *brass* with effigies to Petrus Dormer de Lee (d. 1555), his wife and nineteen children, and in the S. aisle a monument with marble busts of John Cresswell (d. 1704) and his wife.

The manor-house is the residence of T. Leslie-Melville Cartwright, Esq.

On a hill adjoining the hamlet of **Charlton** (1 m. S. Newbottle Church), in this parish, is *Rainsborough Camp*, an irregular oval, enclosing about 6 acres. There are two valla, with a deep wide fosse between; the entrances nearly opposite, E. and W. Roman coins have been found here; and whatever the origin of the work may have been, it is tolerably certain that it was held by the Romans. The wall which surrounds the camp is modern. The name may be identical with that of Ravensburgh, the great earthwork near Dunstable. (See *H.Bk. for Bedfordshire*.)

In the extreme S.W. corner of the county standing on high ground is **Aynhoe** (*hou* = a hill, A.-S.; the meaning of the first part of the word is uncertain. Stat. on the Birmingham branch of the G. W. Rly.). Here is a fine church tower (63 ft. in height) of late Dec.

curvilinear character. The composition of the W. door and window over it well deserves notice. What would otherwise be the central light of the window contains a stone niche, with canopy. The buttresses are set angularly, and in the face of each is a canopied niche for a figure. The church (dedicated to St. Michael) itself was rebuilt "in the Grecian style" in 1723. It adjoins *Aynhoe Park* (W. C. Cartwright, Esq.), a large mansion built on the site of the manor-house, burnt down by the Royalists in 1645. It stands pleasantly in a deer park; and fine views are commanded over part of Oxfordshire, from which county the park is divided by a small feeder of the Cherwell. The house contains some good pictures, among which are five or six by *Murillo*, including an "Assumption of the Virgin," and "Our Lord appearing in a vision to St. Antony of Padua"; one by *Vanderveelde*, another by *Backhuysen*, a large picture by *Rembrandt*, a Crucifixion by *Lucas Cranach*, a copy from Titian by *Rubens*, and two portraits by *Van Dyck*. There are several other portraits, among them the first and second Lords Fairfax, and the third, the Parliamentary general. There are numerous portraits of Cartwrights and Crewes, Lord Chancellor Eldon, by *Lawrence*, and Mrs. Desaguliers, by *Hogarth*. This lady was the daughter of John Blackwood, Esq. (by whom some of the pictures were collected), and great-great grandmother of the present owner. Bronzes and vases, and a fine library are also among the treasures of Aynhoe, which estate Richard Cartwright bought of Shakerley Marmion in 1615. (This was the father of Shakerley Marmion, the dramatist, born here in 1602.) The Portway, an ancient road traversing Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire, passes through the park of Aynhoe, but has been partially



levelled and reduced to a walled-in pathway. A skeleton, with the legs gathered up, was found in a rude stone cist by the workmen when levelling the Portway. There are chalybeate springs here; and the great oolite is here intersected by a liassic outlyer, with fuller's earth and ironstone. The stocks still stand in the village.

The *Church* of All Saints at **Croughton**, 2 m. E. of Aynhoe, contains Norm. and E. E. portions. On the N. wall of the chancel is a Jacobean monument to John Clarke (d. 1603). The old carved ends of some of the oak seats in the nave are worthy of special notice. Near the S. entrance to the churchyard stands a venerable elm-tree.

1 m. S. of Brackley is the village of **Evenley**, on the borders of Buckinghamshire. The *Church* of St. George is a modern cruciform edifice.

*Evenley Hall*, situated in a park of about 130 acres, is the residence of W. Allen, Esq.

On or adjoining the high road from Oxford to Towcester, to the N.E. of Brackley, are **Radstone** and **Whitfield**, the latter being on the border of the county. The *Church*, dedicated to St. John at Whitfield, was rebuilt in 1870, when the old tower was blown down. **Syresham** adjoins Whitfield.

#### *The Route by Road.*

No main road directly follows the route of the G. C. Rly. from Rugby to Brackley. The best route for the cyclist through this district is to take the road to Dunchurch (3 m.) (see *H.Bk. for Warwickshire*), and turn to the l. along the London and Holyhead road through Braunston to Daventry (10 m.). From there follow the road through Byfield (17 m.) and Chipping Warden (20 m.) to ★ **Banbury** (26 m.). From Banbury the road passes through Farthinghoe (31 m.) to ★ **Brackley** (35 m.).

### ROUTE 9.

**WELLINGBOROUGH TO KETTERING AND MARKET HARBOROUGH,  
AND TO MANTON, WITH BRANCH TO HIGHAM FERRERS.**

(MIDLAND RAILWAY. 18 m.)

Rail.	Stations.
	<b>Wellingborough.</b>
	3 m. Rushden.
	5½ m. Higham Ferrers.
3 m.	<b>Finedon.</b>
4¼ m.	<b>Isham and Burton Latimer.</b>
7 m.	<b>KETTERING.</b>
	5 m. Geddington.
	7½ m. Weldon and Corby.
	11 m. Gretton.
	13 m. Harringworth.
	18½ m. Manton.
10¼ m.	<b>Glendon and Rushton.</b>
13 m.	<b>Desborough (for Rothwell).</b>
18 m.	<b>Market Harborough.</b>

The main line of the Midland Rly. from St. Pancras crosses the

Northamptonshire border just before reaching **Irchester** (Stat.), 2½ m. S.E. of Wellingborough. The village lies to the W. of the Stat., and about ½ m. from it is the site of a Roman encampment and very large burial-place. (*Ask for "Chester House."*) The nearest Stat. is Wellingborough on the L. & N. W. Rly. (see Rte. 2). The ancient name of the "Chester" has been completely lost, and there is no apparent clue to it in the Itineraries. The camp is square, con-

taining about 9 acres. It was walled originally; and on the N. side, towards the river Nene, a road runs along the top of the foundation of the wall. This side is very steep. The area of the castrum when ploughed is found to be full of pieces of pottery, many of Castor ware; and coins of the lower Empire are found in numbers. The most remarkable discovery here, however, is an inscription on a slab "D.M.S. Amicius. Saturn. strator Cos. M.S.F." This is preserved in Chester House. The word "strator" found in several inscriptions signifies the attendant who helped the Emperor to mount his horse.

The *Church* at Irchester, dedicated to St. Katherine, is distinguished by one of the best of those spires for which the county is so famous. It is late Dec., and "its great height, the very small size of the squinches connecting it with the square tower, and the slight projection of the spire-lights, all combine to render it one of the most elegant and aspiring of its class."—*E. A. F.* The tracery of the spire-lights is flowing Dec. Remark the rich cornice under the spire, and the local feature of the use of different coloured courses of stone in the tower. The E. E. priests' door deserves notice. The chancel (E. E.) has a graceful piscina and a single sedile. The nave arches are Dec. The font, E. E. Some Norm. fragments show that a church of that date existed here before the present one. The whole edifice was restored in 1889 by J. L. Pearson, R.A., when some wall-paintings were discovered.

1 m. beyond Irchester a branch line goes E. to Rushden and Higham Ferrers (see Rte. 2).

★ **WELLINGBOROUGH.** The Midland Stat. lies to the E. of the town, and a loop line connects it with the L. & N. W. Rly. Stat. S. of the

town and Northampton. (For description of the town, see Rte. 2.)

3 m. **Finedon** (Stat.), *Tingdene* in Domesday, and still sometimes called Thingdon. The *Church*, dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin, stands prominently on a hill  $1\frac{3}{4}$  m. S.E. of the Stat., and well deserves a visit, since it is architecturally one of the best in this part of Northamptonshire. It is surrounded by old yew-trees. The cruciform church is throughout early Dec. (beginning of the 14th cent.), with the exception of the western tower and spire, an entirely distinct work, not earlier than 1350. The ground-plan shows the broad nave, 100 ft. long, and the well-developed chancel displayed by so many churches in the county. The most remarkable feature of the interior is the strainer or straining arch at the E. end of the nave. The *tower* is of four stories, with buttresses of five stages, terminating under the belfry. There are single windows in the 3rd story (above the W. door and the W. window); and in the belfry stage are tall double-windows, with a quatrefoil in the heading. Bands of rich panelling are introduced in the third stage and above the belfry lights, and the tower finishes in a kind of trefoiled corbel table, above which is an embattled parapet. The height thus far is 76 ft. The spire (restored in 1897, having been struck by lightning), with two series of two-light windows, rises to 133 ft. The whole composition is very rich and beautiful. *Outside* the church the same basement moulding is carried quite round; the buttresses project boldly and are good. The windows in the aisles and chancel have elongated, uncusped, reticulated tracery; the others (in the transepts) are of three acutely pointed uncusped lights. *Within*, the nave of 4 bays has lofty piers of a quatrefoiled section, with moulded capitals, ex-



cept that at the S.W. corner of the S. transept, which has very good foliage proceeding from the mouth of a mask. The straining arch "was not inserted until the clerestory had been visibly thrust in, and the ingenuity with which the remedy of a serious defect has been converted into a great ornament cannot be too much commended." It is much enriched with quatrefoils and a battlemented moulding, and resembles the arch introduced for a similar reason at *Rushden* (Rte. 2). The mouldings are the same, though the designs are slightly varied. A low stone screen, with open work, extends across the chancel arch. There is a curious Norm. font with a sculpture of the Annunciation. The church contains a chest (not of ecclesiastical character) inlaid with ebony and ivory. In it is kept a basin, used for baptism, of mother-of-pearl and silver. There are no monuments of interest. At the time the church was built, a nephew of Bishop Burnell, Chancellor to Edward I., had property in Finedon, and if he inherited his uncle's love of building he may have displayed it here. The church, from about 1349, was appropriated to Croxden Abbey in Staffordshire; but Cistercians would hardly have built so enriched a tower. The *parvise chamber*, above the S. porch, contains a library founded by Sir John English-Dolben in 1788. There are some good editions of the Fathers, and a copy of Wilkin's 'Concilia.' It should be added that the *organ*, built by "Father Smith," was opened (May 17, 1717) by Dr. Croft; and that Kent, the writer of many well-known anthems, was the first organist.

N. of the village is *Finedon Hall* (Miss Mackworth-Dolben), the grounds of which deserve notice. There is an arboretum of considerable extent, and a very fine triple  
[Northamptonshire.]

avenue of lime-trees and chesnuts  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. long.

Ironstone is much worked in this neighbourhood, and there are large works belonging to the Glendon Iron Company very near Finedon.

The villages of **Great and Little Harrowden** lie  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.W. of Finedon Stat. (2 m. by road from Wellingborough). The *Church* of All Saints (restored in 1896) at the former, is an edifice of various periods. The chancel, rebuilt in 1845, retains three sedilia and a piscina. In the aisle is another piscina consisting of a bowl on a shaft. There is a *brass* for William "Harwedon," 1433, and his widow.

*Harrowden Hall*, the property and seat of Lord Vaux of Harrowden, was the house of the Lord Vaux, whose daughter by his first wife was conspicuous for her attachment to the Jesuit Garnet, at the time of the Gunpowder Plot; she was one of the remarkable party which went on pilgrimage to St. Winifred's well, in September 1605, and she was examined on Garnet's trial. Sir William Vaux of Harrowden was created a baron in 1523. The house of Lord Vaux was carefully searched after the discovery of the plot, but nothing was found to implicate him, and it was not pretended that his daughter had known of it. The present house dates from the first quarter of the 18th cent., and is a good example of the simpler symmetrical treatment of the time. The *gardens* are interesting and still retain the straight walks and ornamental iron-work of the early 18th cent. The *Church* of St. Mary at Little Harrowden (restd. 1850) is partly E. E.

1 m. N.W. from Little Harrowden is **Orlingbury**, with a charming village green. The *Church* of St. Mary, which replaced an old church, was entirely built in 1843. In the

chancel is a tomb with effigy, *circa* 1375, called that of "Jock of Batsaddle," who died, says the local tradition, from drinking cold water at a spring now called Batsaddle Spring, after killing a wolf and a wild boar in the meadow near his house. Batsaddle was a moated manor-house in the parish.

**4½ m. Isham and Burton Latimer** (Stat.). The *Church* of St. Peter at Isham (the *ham* or "home" on the Ise brook) lies l. of the Rly., and has Norm. and E. E. portions. It was restored in 1870. There are a hagioscope in the S. wall of the chancel and the remains of a small *brass* to John Boyville (d. 1493).

**Burton Latimer** lies to the E. of the Stat. The *Church* of St. Mary is a large edifice of various dates, with a nave of six bays and a half, and a well-developed chancel. The first three bays and a half (westward) are Norm.; the W. tower was added early in the 13th cent.; and toward the close of the same century the Norm. church (except the three bays just mentioned) was pulled down, and the present nave and chancel constructed. Some alteration took place afterwards, in Perpendicular days. The tower is throughout of E. E. character, with blank arcades and good windows. (The door on the N. side is a Dec. insertion.) The battlements and spire are later. *Within* the church there is a curious mixture of Norm. and E. E. work, especially at the junction of the two styles, and in the tower is a *brass* with effigy to Margaret Bacon (d. 1626). There are considerable remains of wall paintings. The *Hall* (Mrs. Villiers) is an Elizabethan mansion, belonging to the Rev. H. Harpur, the lord of the manor.

2 m. W. of Isham Stat. is **Pytchley**, famous as the place which has given name to one of the most

celebrated "hunts" in the kingdom. This hunt was established about the middle of the 18th cent.; and the manor-house, which had been built by Sir Euseby Isham in the reign of Elizabeth, served during many years as a "club house" for the members. It was of native yellow stone, with many gables, and was pulled down in 1828. (There is an engraving, well showing the character of the house, in Baker's 'Northamptonshire.') "The kennels were close at hand, and the hounds were brought there for a fortnight at a time, when that part of the country was hunted. Then the members came and took up their lodgings at the club, the horses being in scratch stables in the village. The cuisine was notoriously good, and, in the fashion of the day, drinking and play were deep. A billiard-table and boxing-gloves in the hall helped to dispel the listlessness of non-hunting days. It was a custom after dinner for any member, on depositing half-a-crown in a wine-glass, to name and put up to the highest bidding the horse of any other member, who of course could buy him in at his own price. In this way, on a night of more than usual festivity, 'Lancet' was sold by Mr. Nethercoat to Mr. Cook, of Hothorpe, for 620*l.*—a price at that day unexampled for a hunter, and long quoted as one of the marvels of Pytchley. . . . The Chase books at Althorp, which commence in 1773, give a detailed account of every day's sport, while the Pytchley were under the mastership of the late Lord Althorp."—*James's* "Northants." The hunt continued after the extinction of the club, and remains in great distinction, the kennels being at present at Brixworth (see Rte. 4). It is worth noting that the Domesday Survey records as the owner of this place one William, "who held his lands at Pightesley by sergeantry of



hunting wolves, foxes, and other vermin." His predecessor in the days of the Confessor had been "Alwyne the hunter." The "sporting antiquity" of Pytchley is therefore very considerable; and Canon James point out that, underlying the foundations of the present church and the churchyard a primitive cemetery, discovered in 1845, disclosed in one of its rough stone kistvaens the skeleton of a man with a spear-head and boar's tusk by his side—the trophy, no doubt, of some yet earlier *chasse* in the forest which once covered all this part of the country. Pytchley was at one time famous for its annual races and steeplechases, which have long been discontinued. The race-course here was an especially good one. (See 'The Pytchley Hunt,' by H. O. Nethercote, 1888.)

Pytchley Church, dedicated to All Saints, is of various styles, dating from the Norm., and was restored in 1845 and 1861. It has an interesting Jacobean pulpit and a fine ring of bells—one very ancient and the others of the date of James I. and Charles I. In the possession of the vicar is a list of Incumbents from the 13th cent. to the present time.

7 m. ★ KETTERING, Junct. Stat., with branches to Huntingdon (see Rte. 10). The main line to the north here divides, one section going *viâ* Market Harborough and Leicester, the other *viâ* Manton and Nottingham. Kettering (Cateringe in Domesday) is a market-town standing on high ground, and marked by the tower and spire of the church seen over all the neighbouring country. The chief business of the place is shoe-making; there are also ironworks and clothing factory. For the tourist, however, the sole point of interest in Kettering is the church. The place belonged to the great monastery of

Peterborough from the end of the 10th cent. until the 16th. The manor has since been in several hands.

The Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, restored in 1893 by Sir A. W. Blomfield, A.R.A., is late Perp., with the exception of the eastern end of the chancel, which is early Dec., *circa* 1260. It consists of nave and aisles, chancel with N. and S. chantry, W. tower and N. porch. The Perp. work of the main building is of ordinary character. The nave is of six bays. The aisles are nearly of equal width. But although fine and dignified in expression, the interior is of no very great interest, and the only points to be noted are—the East window of the chancel (early Dec.), with modern stained glass, the remains of a wall-painting in the N. aisle, representing St. Roche in the habit of a pilgrim; and the roof of the S. chantry, a good example of late Perp. But the *tower and spire* are very fine, and are quite worthy of the architectural reputation of the county. The date is probably about 1450. The tower is of four stories, richly decorated with string-courses and panels; the former quatrefoiled, but with a different pattern for each. These foiled string-courses are carried round the buttresses, which are of six stages, set on in pairs about 2 ft. from each angle of the tower. Above the very rich W. doorway is the great W. window, occupying the whole height of the second storey. Above, again, are the belfry lights, triplets, each of two lights, transomed. The battlemented parapet has octagon turrets at each corner, and set on with a projecting eave resting on a corbel table of heads. (Compare the tower of *Oundle*, Rte. 2.) The spire, rising within the battlements, is richly crocketed. The north porch, with a parvise chamber, is curiously slanted; perhaps, as has been suggested, to face

the chief path leading to the church from the town. (See 'Kettering Church,' by R. W. Billing, 1869.)

The modern *Church* of St. Andrew, built by *Street* in 1870, deserves notice. The new *Church* of St. Mary (Messrs. Gotch and Saunders, Archits.), was presented as an anonymous gift to the Church in Kettering, completed in 1894. It is worth a visit. The *Cemetery*, on the London road, is well laid-out and planted.

The architectural antiquary should visit Barton Seagrave, about 2 m. from Kettering; and Broughton and Geddington are also within an easy drive of the town (see *post*).

2 $\frac{3}{4}$  m. S.W. of Kettering Stat. is Broughton, on the Northampton road. The *Church* of St. Andrew has Norm. portions, but is chiefly early Dec. and Perp. The whole church was restored in 1854, and a pulpit of Caen stone was added in 1867. There is a monument with bust for Robert Bolton the Puritan, and another with a bust for Harold Kynnesman of this parish, who was "Vice Treasurer at Armes in the Irish Warres in the reignes of Queene Elizabeth and Kinge James."

1 m. to the N.W. of Broughton is Great Cransley. The charming *Church* of St. Andrew (restored in 1870) contains several *brasses*; in the S. aisle is one with effigies to Edward Dallison and Anne Snagge (d. 1589), and in the N. aisle another with effigies to Edward Dallyson (d. 1515) and his wife.

At Loddington, 4 m. W. of Kettering, the *Church* of St. Leonard has an E. E. lancet tower with a broach spire. Close to the pulpit, there is an old hour-glass stand, made of iron, and inserted in the wall.

During the restorations the westernmost window in the N. wall of the chancel was discovered to be a lychnoscope. At the bottom of the N.E. wall of the chancel is a low, long, arched recess, said by some to be a sepulchre, and by others a founder's tomb. There is a similar one in the S. wall of the S. chapel, and another in the wall of the S. aisle. That in the chancel is curious, as possessing the socket in which the torches or lamp-irons were formerly placed. The old Manor House (Mrs. Brooke) is a Tudor and Elizabethan building, lately enlarged.

Thorpe Malsor, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  m. W. of Kettering. The *Church* of St. Leonard is a Dec. building with a western tower and broach spire. There is a ring of six bells.

Thorpe Hall (Rev. C. H. Maunsell, M.A.).

Barton Seagrave lies 2 m. S.E. of Kettering on the road to Thrapston. The walk is not very interesting until the valley of the little river Ise, a feeder of the Nene, is reached. Here is much wood; and on the rt. bank of the stream on rising ground stand Barton Hall and Church. The place is named from the Seagraves, its ancient lords, who held it from an early period. The *Church* of St. Botolph belonged, temp. Edward II., to the Priory of Kenilworth. It is very interesting, and contains some remarkable Norm. work. The Norm. church consisted of nave and chancel, with a tower at the intersection. A S. aisle with chantry at the E. end was added in the Dec. period, when the whole fabric underwent alteration. The main walls of the church (except the S. aisle) and the lower part of the tower are apparently early Norm. The Norm. windows, with exterior side shafts, remain on the



N. side of the chancel and in the tower. The N. door of the nave is Norm., having side shafts with carved capitals, and some very rude carving in the tympanum below the arch, representing a bearded head between two monsters, one of which has a human head in its mouth. Within, the tower arches belong to the original building. Their W. faces have a deep hollow, a convex moulding, and a double row of billet mouldings, supported by a single shaft on each side, and a rude and far projecting abacus. The E. faces of these arches are plain. The clerestory of the nave, with its deeply set, trefoil windows, was added in the Dec. period, to which time also belong the corbels of the nave roof, and the upper stage of the tower, with the belfry lights.

Fine avenues of elms stretch away from the church E. and N.E.; and may be due to the example, if not to the direction, of that Duke of Montagu known as "Planter John," who did so much at Boughton (see *post*), and who was for some time "Lord Paramount" here. On the opposite side of the road is *Barton Hall* (Viscount Hood), an old house much modernised. It was the home and property of John Bridges, author of the 'History of Northamptonshire,' who was born here. The materials for this history were collected by him with very great labour; but he died before the work was completed, and the book (2 vols. folio) was arranged and published in 1791, by the Rev. Peter Whalley. Bridges MSS. are all in the Bodleian Library at Oxford.

The visitor should walk to the top of the hill, to which the avenues ascend. The view thence across the valley of the Ise is pleasing, and is well characteristic of this part of the country, which is almost too closely wooded. Over all the scene, church towers, halls and villages,

look out from thick screens of elm and oak.

About 2 m. N.E. from Kettering, a little off the main road to Stamford, to the rt. is **Warkton**. The Church of St. Edmunds, which belonged to the Abbey of St. Edmundsbury until the Dissolution, when it was granted to Sir Edward Montagu, is rich in the costly monuments of the Dukes and Duchesses of Montagu, whose house of Boughton is at no great distance (see *post*). The wood which covers so much of this district is due in great measure to Duke "John the Planter." The church is surrounded by fine trees, above which rises the tower, Perp., of four stories. On one of the bells is an unusual inscription, "Gratum opus agricolis, intactum sileo percute dulce sono." In the last century the chancel was rebuilt in "classic" style, and converted into a kind of mausoleum; and the nave deprived of its original character. The latter was restored in 1872, when a new S. aisle was built. The chancel, which has undergone some improvement, contains the great Montagu monuments. These are—John, Duke of Montagu, "the Planter" (d. 1749), and another for the Duchess (d. 1751). Below appear the Fates, spinning and cutting her thread of life. These are both by *Roubiliac*. The others are for Mary, Duchess of Montagu (d. 1775), "a circular Ionic sepulchre," designed by *Peter Matthias Vangelder*; and a seated figure of Elizabeth Montagu, Duchess Dowager of Buccleuch, only daughter of the last Duke of Montagu (d. 1827), by *Thos. Campbell*. The great size of these erections, the cost of which was enormous, gives them an intrusive and disturbing character in a country church.

**Weekley**, 1 m. N. of Warkton, lies on the main road to Stamford, shortly before reaching the park of

Boughton, which is a distinct manor although in Weekley parish. The Church of St. Mary, restored 1872, has a Dec. tower and good early Dec. arcade. In the Montagu chapel is the monument of Lord Chief Justice Montagu (d. 1556); there are also other monuments to members of the Montagu family. Near the church is *Montagu's Hospital*, founded by Sir Edward Montagu in 1614, and bearing on its front the motto, "What thou doest doe yt yn Faith." And the line from 'Ovid'—

"Tempora labuntur tacitisque senescimus annis."

**Boughton House** (Duke of Buccleuch, K.T.), which was bought in 1528 by Sir Edward Montagu, Lord Chief Justice, is especially remarkable for the great network of avenues which surround the house, and which extend altogether to a length of about 60 miles. These were entirely the work of Duke John "the Planter," who died in 1749. The equal horizon-lines of the avenues are curious in effect, and at once show that all the trees were planted at the same time. The greater number are elms; but the variety is inferior to that used at Lilford, where the elm avenues are certainly more striking. The Boughton trees, however, are very beautiful; and the broad grassy spaces in the park, dotted with deer (there are about 800), that open between the avenues, from the N. and W. fronts are delightful. The house was built by Ralph, 1st Duke of Montagu, but portions of the Elizabethan house were incorporated. In 1695 he received King William and his Court here with great magnificence. It was largely altered and added to by the 2nd Duke, John "the Planter"; and in the days of its splendour Boughton was famous for its vast gardens and ornamented grounds, a wilderness of statues,

vases, and terraces. Thus it is mentioned by *Delille*, "*Jardins*," Chant. ii., where some English places are condescendingly noticed:

"Et Bowton et Foxley, que le bon goût planta."

All this splendour, however, has disappeared (although the little river Ise, which runs through the park, still retains for a short part of its course the "straight-waistcoting" to which it was subjected by that kind of *bon goût* which came from Holland with the 3rd William). The house is vast, with much French character—tall casements with small glazing, and "mansardes" breaking from the roofs which, moderately steep, are covered with Colley Weston slate. The house itself is of the local grey stone. The wings were the work of John the Planter. An arcaded front opens to the hall, in which are many full-length portraits (chiefly copies or compositions), including one of Lord Chief Justice Montagu. In an inner hall is a curious portrait of Edward VI. on a white horse. In the background a full moon is rising. Other pictures to be noted are—in the *Dining-room*, Duke John the Planter, by *Kneller*, a delicately-featured face, as of a man who may have cared more for his trees than for the turmoil of state. Eldest daughter of Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, *Van Dyck*; and two of the Brudenell family, also by *Van Dyck*. In the *State Bedroom* is the portrait of a man holding a mathematical instrument, ascribed to *Dobson*. The principal art-treasures of the house, however, are in an upper apartment. These are two cartoons, assigned to *Raphael*, and given by Charles II. to the Duke of Beaumont, with a series of tapestries from the cartoons now at Kensington. The subjects are the "Vision of Ezekiel," and a "Holy Family"—the first after *Raphael's* small picture in the Pitti



Palace at Florence, the second after a Holy Family painted for Francis I. But in both cases there are great alterations and omissions, and both Passavant and Waagen are decidedly of opinion that Raffaele himself had nothing to do with these cartoons. "I am convinced," writes Waagen, "that both these cartoons were executed by Netherlandish artists, as patterns for the tapestry manufactures at Arras, Tournay, and other towns, where the tapestries in the Vatican from the Hampton Court cartoons were worked." In spite of this judgment, however, which is probably a true one, the cartoons at Boughton will be found interesting, and well deserving of attention. There are in the house two sets of tapestries from the Hampton Court cartoons; besides many of later date, and of different subjects. In the same room with the cartoons are full-length portraits of John the Planter and of his Duchess, daughter of the Duke of Marlborough; Lady Anne Rivers, in the habit of an Abbess; and Lord Rivers in peer's "robes." An adjoining bedroom contains a portrait of Sir Thos. Tresham, the builder of the Triangular Lodge, &c. (see Rushton, Rte. 9), in very rich armour, holding a cross-bow. In the house are some other pictures of note:—a fine copy of *Matsys*' "Misers"; landscapes by *Artois* and *Wilson*; a curious family picture by *John Verkolie*; and children of the Earl of Leicester by *Sir Peter Lely*. There are many Montagu portraits, but none of much interest beyond those already noticed; besides numerous flower-pieces by *Jean Baptiste* (Monnoyer) (d. 1699), who was patronised by the first Duke of Montagu, for some time Ambassador in Paris, whence he brought the artist, who lived occasionally at Boughton, and painted there. The ceilings throughout are by *Verrio*; and the room is shown in which King William III.

slept, where the bed is hung with pink and gold brocade. On a chimney-piece in the Audit Gallery, a remnant of the old Montagu house, are the inscriptions "Mille douleurs pour ung plasure"; "Ne sis Argus foris et domi talpa" (see 'Boughton House and the Montagus,' by C. Wise).

The main line to the north, *viâ* Manton, branches off in a N.E. direction  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. after leaving Kettering

5 m. Geddington (Stat.). The village borders the river Ise, which is here crossed by a good 14th-cent. bridge, the oldest part of which was erected about 1250. It is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.E. from the stat. on the main road to Stamford, and 4 m. from Kettering. There is a pleasant path through the fields to the village. Geddington (the name is perhaps to be referred to the Geddinges, whose settlements occur in Suffolk and Middlesex) is a place of considerable antiquity, and the Church of St. Mary Magdalen retains marks of its Saxon origin. The nave arcade, on the N. side, is late Norm. with peculiar capitals and round arches; on the S. the arcade is E. E. with pointed arches. Above the arcade on the N. side are traces in the wall of a very peculiar triangular-headed arcade which may perhaps be Saxon. In that case the Saxon church must have been aisleless, and its walls were cut through to form the present arcades, dividing the nave from its aisles. The earlier aisles were rebuilt in Perp. days, when the walls were raised, and the present clerestory of the nave inserted. The whole of this Saxon work, which was carefully preserved during the restoration of the church, deserves notice. The chancel arch is late Dec.; but on the S. side are two

E. E. arches opening to a chantry. Bracket heads project from the wall on each side of the E. window; and an inscription runs round the base moulding in the eastern bay, "Willelmvs Glover de Geytynton capellanus fecit scabellum"—with the date 1369. These scabellum may possibly be the existing sedilia. In the N. aisle is a small *brass* for Henry Jarmon, c. 1480, with anelace or knife, and his wife. The tower and spire are Dec. and fine. Remark the projecting gurgoyles, carved in hard stone, and as sharp as when just finished.

There was a royal "villa" at Geddington, the site of which was probably the "hall close" N. of the church. The manor was certainly in the King's hands in 1162, but for how long before that date is uncertain. In 1177 a council was held at Geddington by Henry II. to treat "of the peace and stability of the realm"; and in 1188, after the shock of the capture of Jerusalem, the same King held a great council here, in which he obtained a promise of a tithe to be contributed towards the Crusade. This was the last great council held by Henry II. in England. He went abroad in the same year and never returned. In 1194 Richard I. and William of Scotland were here on Good Friday, and went the next day to Northampton. The royal manor-house must have been of some size and importance, and its situation within the limits of the great forest of Rockingham gave it special attraction. It was chosen as one of the places at which the body of Queen Eleanor rested (no doubt in the church) on its way from Harby; and the Cross still commemorates this. No account has been found of the cost of erecting this cross, such as exists for that at Northampton (Rte. 1); but the character of the statues is the same, and the

architect may have been the same John de la Bataille. The cross stands in the village, at the junction of three roads. It has a hexagonal base, raised on seven steps; but the upper part is triangular, and the outline differs altogether from that of the Northampton cross or from that of the cross at Waltham. It has been compared with these to its disparagement; but it may very well be doubted whether the general effect is not better. The design of the base is very good, and the sculpture excellent. Under the canopies above, carried on slender shafts, are three figures of the Queen. The whole, which was restored in 1880 and 1890, is still a true relic of the 13th cent., with its age duly stamped on it; and for the artist, the touches with which time and weather have softened the outlines—fine as these still are—will not lessen the effect or the interest. There are few villages which possess so interesting a group as that formed by the bridge, the cross, and the church. (See 'The History and Antiquities of Geddington,' by C. A. Markham, 1899.)

Between the Stat. and village of Geddington is *Newton-in-the-Willows*, where the little *Church of St. Faith* was originally a private chapel attached to a manor-house of the Treshams, a branch of which family (see Rushton, *post*) was settled here for many generations. A dovecot, in the field adjoining the church, is the sole memorial of their hall at Newton. The church was restored, newly roofed, and a chancel added, in 1858. There is an altar-tomb for Richard Tresham (d. 1433) and his wife Isabel; and a *brass* for John Mulsho (d. 1400) and wife (a Tresham). He is kneeling at a cross, in the head of which is a figure of St. Faith.

1 m. N.E. of Geddington Stat. is



**Little Oakley.** The *Church*, dedicated to St. Peter, is E. E. The font is Norm. There are monuments to the Montagu family, including one in the chancel to William Montagu, who was lord of the manor (d. 1619). The building was partly restored in 1868, and the restoration was completed in 1881-2 at a total cost of nearly 3000*l.*, defrayed by the late Duke of Buccleuch. The old bracket of the hour-glass is in a good state of preservation.

$\frac{1}{2}$  m. W. of Geddington Stat. is **Great Oakley.** The *Church* of St. Michael contains some monuments for the family of Brooke, whose ancient seat, *Oakley Hall* (Sir A. R. de Capell-Brooke, Bart.), is a little N. of the village. It dates from 1555, and is a square building, much covered with ivy. It has been recently enlarged.

$\frac{1}{2}$  m. W. of Oakley is the site of *Pipewell Abbey*, a Cistercian house founded toward the end of the reign of Stephen by William Butevileyn. A great council was held here by Richard I. in Sept. 1189, the first held by him after his accession. Nearly all the English and Irish bishops were present, besides abbots and priors, and a great number of laymen. The vacant bishoprics were filled; and money raised for the crusade. Pipewell stood in the midst of the Rockingham forest; so that the weariness of state business might be lightened by the royal chase. The Abbey was well endowed; and at the Dissolution its clear annual value was 283*l.* There are no remains whatever, and but scanty traces of ancient foundations.

$7\frac{1}{2}$  m. **Weldon and Corby** (Stat.). The village of **Corby**, which lies close to the Stat., gives name to the Hundred, and is surrounded by woody country. The *Church* of St. John the Baptist is partly E. E., but is of

no very great interest. Large iron-stone and brick works in the parish.

The picturesque village of **Great Weldon**, or *Weldon-in-the-Woods*, as it was called from its situation in Rockingham forest, is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. E. of the Stat., in a pleasant, broken country, which extends to Rockingham and to the river Welland, the N.W. boundary of Northamptonshire. It has a number of good specimens of small houses of early 17th cent. The *Church* of St. Mary is mainly E. E. It underwent restoration in 1852, and again in 1862, when some additions were made. On the summit of the church tower is a lantern, formerly used for lighting wayfarers through the forest on dark nights. An old German stained glass window, representing the adoration of the Magi, was placed in the church by the present rector in 1897. It formerly belonged to Lord Nelson, and was given by him to Sir William Hamilton, K.B. The geologist should visit the *freestone quarries* in this parish, which have been worked from an early period. "If we may credit the tradition of the place," says Bridges, "founded on the report of skilful workmen, who know the grain of this stone, Old St. Paul's Cathedral, before the fire of London, was built with Weldon stone." It belongs to the uppermost beds of the Inferior Oolite, and is best known as "Ketton stone" from the quarries in Rutland, just beyond the Northamptonshire border. This is one of the most important building stones in the kingdom, and is composed entirely of small egg-shaped grains, embedded in a calcareous matrix. It is very easily worked, of a good cream colour, and very durable, hardening under atmospheric exposure. St. Dunstan's Church in Fleet Street, London many of the Colleges at Cambridge, and many of the Northamptonshire

churches are built of it. It is not very fossiliferous, but has yielded some fine corals.

The village of **Little Weldon** lies on the W. side of the road to Stamford.

2 m. S.E. of Weldon and Corby Stat. is **Stanion**. The *Church* of St. Peter has a good spire.

Continuing by rail, and after passing through a long tunnel, is reached

11 m. **Gretton** (Stat.). The *Church*, dedicated to St. James (restored), rises N. on a ridge above the Welland. The chancel and aisles are E. E. and Dec., and four Norm. arches bear traces of still earlier work. The massive tower, 90 ft. high, has an embattled parapet and pinnacles. There are in the chancel some monuments to the Hatton family, and many were interred in the large crypt underneath the chancel, built about 1700 by Christopher, Lord Hatton.

Gretton is another village where a number of picturesque 17th-cent. houses remain, two bearing the dates 1675 and 1699. On the village green are the stocks and whipping-post.

1 m. S.E. is the interesting **KIRBY HALL**, on the whole the most fascinating of all the Elizabethan houses which now exist. Its situation among the remains of its avenues, and other tokens of departed magnificence, will appeal to the ordinary tourist, while the varied and unusual detail of the stonework will attract the lover of architecture. Kirby was built by Sir Humphrey Stafford, of Blatherwycke, and the Stafford cognizances—a boar's head rising out of a ducal coronet, and the Stafford knot—can be seen carved in all the ornamental bands of the inner court, while on

the parapet is the name **HVM FRE STA FARD**. The first stone of the building was laid by John Thorpe, in the year 1570 (as he says on his plan in the Soane Museum), and the dates, 1572, 1575, are visible on the parapets. The Stafford motto, "Je seray loyal," appears on the gable over the entrance porch. In 1575 it was sold by the representatives of Sir Humphrey Stafford to Sir Christopher Hatton, who apparently did nothing in the way of building, unless he erected the stables, which have disappeared, but which are said to have borne the date 1590. Although it was bought in 1575, Sir Christopher Hatton states that he did not see the place till 1580. A successor of his, another Sir Christopher, employed Inigo Jones, in the years 1638-40, to "modernise" the house by altering the entrance front of the outer court, inserting a number of pedimented windows in the inner court, and adding a staircase at the S. end (now gone). The initials and arms of Hatton may still be seen in places. The bust of Apollo over the centre of the N. side of the inner court was carved by Nicholas Stone for the sum of 10*l.*, and was sent down in August, 1640. Stone also supplied a model of the staircase built at the same time. The surroundings of the house were in keeping with its splendour. Remains of a massive raised walk, with occasional touches of architectural treatment, are still to be seen to the W. of the house. A bridge, from which the ornamental balustrade has disappeared, spans the little stream to the S., beyond which are remains of the orchard. An old plan, of the year 1586, shows the church to have stood to the S.W. of the Hall, together with a few scattered houses, but these have long since disappeared, and there was no church when Bridges wrote (early in the 18th cent.). Kirby is at present



the property of the Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham, who represents the Hattons. The house was in habitable condition as recently as 1820, and from its remote and yet central position it was spoken of as a possible retreat for the Court of George III. in the event of a French invasion. The house, buried in deep woods, was, when Canon James wrote, "the lair and the fuel of a common labourer." It was falling slowly to pieces, and yet the masonry remains in all its firmness, without a stone displaced, the sculpture as sharp as the first day it was carved. "A moderate and timely outlay, a few years ago, would have preserved a house that tens of thousands could not now restore." The decay has now been arrested, and all the walls protected.

**13 m. Harringworth (Stat.).** The village, in which an old cross still remains, is situated on the S. bank of the Welland, which divides the county from Rutland. The *Church* of St. John the Baptist (restd. 1892) has a massive western tower with spire, and a handsome old wooden screen. There are monuments to the Tryon family. Harringworth was once the home of the old Norm. family of De la Zouche, which still shows its ancient connection with it by the full title of De la Zouche, of Harringworth. The "Swan" inn has a 16th-cent. front.

The railway immediately afterwards crossing the Welland by a very lofty brick viaduct of 22 arches 70 ft. high, enters into Rutland, and proceeds to

**18½ m. Manton** (see Section II., *Rutland*).

The main line to the North *via* Market Harborough, after leaving Kettering branches off to the l. and arrives at

**10½ m. Glendon and Rushton (Stat.).** The points of interest at Rushton are the *Church*, seen before reaching the station, the *Hall*, and the *Triangular Lodge*, the very curious building of Sir Thomas Tresham.

The manor of Rushton passed with other estates into the hands of Sir William Tresham about 1428. The family was one of considerable importance; and Bridges, who gives a pedigree for seven generations, reckons among the Treshams six sheriffs and five members for Northamptonshire. The history of Sir Thomas Tresham, the builder of the lodge here, and of the "new building" at Lyveden, has been partly given in Rte. 2 (*Lyveden*). Although the Treshams had been strongly attached to the "old religion," Sir Thomas, who succeeded to the estates as a minor, had for some unknown reason been brought up as a Protestant, but soon (under the influence of Campion and Parsons) returned to his church, and underwent throughout his life a long series of pains and penalties. He was frequently imprisoned and fined, and for 20 years it is asserted that he paid regularly into the treasury 260*l.* a year for recusancy. Writing to Lord Howard about two years before his death, he said that "he had completed his triple apprenticeship in direct adversity, and that the years seemed to him but a few days, for the love he bore his beautiful, beloved, and graceful Rachael,"—meaning the Catholic Church. He was last imprisoned in Dec. 1596, and discharged Dec. 8, 1597. He died in September, 1605, and was succeeded by his eldest son Francis, the conspirator. Of his six daughters, two married the Lords Stourton and Mounteagle, whose names are both connected with the Gunpowder Plot. There is no reason for believing that Sir Thomas Tresham knew anything of

this plot. The part which his son played in it has been thoroughly shown in *Jardine's* 'History of the Gunpowder Plot,' the best and fullest account which exists. It is probable that the famous warning letter to Lord Mounteagle was written by this Francis Tresham, who died in prison, December 23, 1605. The Rushton estates were then confiscated, and were afterwards bought by Sir William Cockayne. They are now the property of T. B. Clarke Thornhill, Esq., of Rushton Hall, now occupied by Pickering Phipps, Esq.

*Rushton Hall* is built round three sides of a quadrangle; the fourth side being closed by a "Doric" screen. The original house was built by a Tresham in the 15th cent., but was somewhat altered by Sir Thomas Tresham, "the builder," in 1595; continued by the Cockaynes, and finished in 1630. (The date 1595, with the arms of Tresham, occurs on two of the gables. Other parts bear the shield of the Cockaynes, and the dates 1626, 1627.) Another relic of Sir Thomas is to be seen in a bas-relief representing the Crucifixion in what is called the "oratory." There is a belief that John Dryden visited Rushton on different occasions, and that he wrote some part of the 'Hind and Panther' here. The old home of the Treshams would have been no unfitting place for meditation for that poem; but no extant letter of Dryden's, and no other authority, asserts that he was ever at Rushton. A curious discovery was made in the house of Rushton in 1832. In removing a lintel above a doorway a Roman breviary fell out. Further search revealed an opening in a thick stone wall, 5 ft. long and 15 in. wide, containing about 20 books and several bundles of MSS. The books were chiefly books of devotion. The MSS. consisted of histo-

rical notes by Sir Thomas Tresham, building bills, deed, and farming contracts; a portion of the domestic correspondence of the Tresham family between 1590 and 1605; and a memorandum of certain bonds "delivered up to Mrs. Tresham, Nov. 28th, 1605, by the writer of the memorandum," who signs no name. This Mrs. Tresham was the wife of Francis the conspirator; and the books and papers were no doubt concealed when it was expected that Rushton would be searched, like the houses of others concerned in the plot. (A calendar of the papers, which seem to be of no great historical importance, has been printed by *Taylor* of Northampton.)

The "building bills" of Sir Thomas might, however, be expected to throw some light on the curious *Triangular Lodge* which was certainly built by him, and which is mentioned in the pocket-book of Captain Richard Symonds, the Royalist (printed by the *Camden Soc.* 1859) thus—"Rushton.—Sir Thomas Tresham built part of this faire house, and also the pretty Warren-house." (Symonds saw it on his march, eight days before Naseby.) The "Warren House" is no doubt the Lodge. For Sir Thomas's passion for building, and his love of mystical sculpture and devices, see *Lyveden*, Rte. 2. The "fancies" displayed at Lyveden were carried to a far greater excess in this lodge at Rushton; and it has been suggested that both buildings were the result of his position as a persecuted "recusant." "He was not allowed to have the mass celebrated in his own house, nor could he openly build a chapel for the purpose; so he erected near each of his principal mansions a building with more or less of a religious as well as a secular character about it, that under the latter it might the better escape notice, but be fitted, when it could be done with



safety, to be used for the purposes of religion.”—*Rev. H. Ward.* The lodge stands at the extremity of the grounds, close to the rly., nearly 1 m. from the house. The building itself, and every part of it, is emblematical of the Holy Trinity. The ground-plan is an equilateral triangle, each side measuring 33 ft. 3 in. There are three floors, cellar, ground-floor, and upper floor; three windows in each storey on each of the three sides, and each of these windows has divisions or compartments of threes. The shields of arms are arranged on each side in twice three couplets in three lines. Each of the long Latin inscriptions consists of 33 letters; and the single words below them are three sets of two letters on each face of the building. The trefoil of the Tresham arms is indicated in the form of the windows in the lowest and uppermost stages. The roof is finished with three gables on either side, each gable carrying a three-sided pinnacle terminating in a trefoil. There is a central three-sided pinnacle, the sides of which are covered with trefoils. This pinnacle is, in fact, a chimney, the holes for the smoke being just below the cornice. On the S.E. side is the door, approached by a flight of steps, and entering on the 2nd storey. The various shields, devices, and inscriptions will occupy some time in reading. Below the windows of the 2nd storey are the date 1593, and the initials of the builder, T. T. *The side containing the entrance.*—On the 1st gable are the figures 3898, and underneath them the seven-branched candlestick. On the 2nd gable, “Respicite” and a sundial. On the 3rd, 3509 and the stone with seven eyes upon it (Zech. iii. 9). Under the gables runs the inscription, “Aperiatur terra et germinet salvatorem” (Isaiah xlv. 8); and above the windows, the letters of the word

“Mentes,” part of the inscription “Mentes tuorum visita,” one word of which is on each side. Above the door is a shield with the Tresham arms, the inscription “Tres Testimonium dant,” and four large figures of 5. *N. side.*—On the gables are a hen with chicken, a dial, and a pelican in her piety. Above the dial are the words “Non mihi”; above the hen, 1641; and above the pelican, 1626. Under the gables is the inscription, “Quis separabit nos a charitate Christi.” *W. side.*—On the gables, a dove sitting on a serpent which encircles the globe; a dial; and a hand out of clouds grasping the world. Over the dove and the hand are the numbers 1595 and 1580; and above the dial, “Soli laboravi.” (The whole inscription thus runs, “Respicite non mihi soli laboravi.”) Below are the words, “Consideravi opera tua Domine et expavi.” On the sides of the chimney shaft which supports the central pinnacle are the date 1595 (repeated on each), the holy lamb and the word “Ecce,” the chalice with the word “Salus,” and the sacred monogram with three nails and the words “Esto mihi.”—Angels bearing shields project below the gable cornice. The letters on the breast of each angel, and on the shield, have been explained to mean “Sanctus Sanctus Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth qui erat et qui est et qui venturus est”; each letter being the initial of a word. The figures or dates are too mysterious to be at all intelligible. The many shields of arms are those of Tresham and its intermarriages. Within the house the only arms are those of the builder impaling Throckmorton. (Sir Thomas married Muriel, daughter of Sir R. Throckmorton.) The rooms within are hexagonal, the corners of the large triangle being separated off into triangular closets, one of which contains the staircase.

With this lodge seems to be connected the following curious extract from a letter of Sir Thomas Tresham, found among the MSS. at Rushton, and communicated to 'Notes and Queries' (Nov. 26, 1853) by Mr. Jardine. "If it be demanded," writes Sir Thomas, "why I labour so much in the Trinity and Passion of Christ to depaint in this chamber, this is the principal instance thereof: That at my last being hither" (Wisebeach Castle, in which he was more than once imprisoned) "committed, and I usually having my servants here allowed me, to read nightly an hour to me after supper, it fortuned that Fulcis my then servant, reading in the *Christian Revolution*, in the treatise of *Proof there is a God, &c.*, there was upon a wainscot table at that instant, three loud knocks (as if it had been with an iron hammer) given; to the great amazing of me and my two servants, Fulcis and Nilkton."

A church, dedicated to St. Peter, formerly stood close to the hall, and represented a distinct manor, but this was pulled down at the end of the century. The *Church of All Saints* (rest'd. 1869) has chancel and nave, with N. aisles to each. The nave piers are round, of the 13th cent.; those in the chancel are later. The windows in the N. aisle are Perp. At the S. of the chancel is a vestry with high-pitched stone roof. On the N. side of the chancel is the altar-tomb with effigy of Sir Thomas Tresham (not the builder, but his grandfather), last Lord Prior in England of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. He wears plate-armour with mail gussets, and a long mantle with a cross flory on the breast, the habit of the order assigned to it by Pope Honorius III. On his fingers are many rings. On the sides of the tomb are shields of arms, and a half-defaced inscription. "If," says Fuller, "the dimensions of his body may be guessed by his

finger, and his finger by his ring, which I have seen in possession of his kinsman, he was a little giant, and far greater than his portraiture on his monument." He was made Lord Prior by Queen Mary in 1557 (the order had been suppressed by Henry VIII., and was revived by Mary), a distinction which entitled him to be regarded as "*primus Angliæ baro*," since the Priors took their seat in Parliament above the temporal lords. He did not live, however, long after the accession of Elizabeth. His monument was removed from the destroyed church of St. Peter, together with a much earlier effigy in the N. chapel. This is a cross-legged knight, temp. Henry III.; of earlier date than the connexion of the Treshams with Rushton. There are some modern memorial windows of stained glass in the chancel; and a fine modern brass in the nave, in memory of the wife of W. C. C. Thornhill, Esq.

13 m. Desborough (Stat.). The cruciform *Church* of St. Giles is mainly E. E. The manor for fourteen generations belonged to the Pulton family, one of whom, Ferdinando Pulton, who is stated to be buried in the chancel, was the compiler of the "*Statutes at Large*," from Magna Charta to the 16th of James I. There is an exact copy of the original brass on the tomb of George Pulton (d. 1598) and his wife. In the vicarage garden is a portion of an interesting Saxon cross.

The little town of ★*Rothwell*, generally called *Rowell*, is about 2 m. S.E. of Desborough Stat., and stands on the high road from Kettering to Market Harborough. The objects of interest are the market-house and the church. The market-house was begun by *Sir Thomas Tresham*; and, although not so quaintly fantastic as his other buildings, shows distinctly the mark



of his hand, and has some general resemblance to the "new build" at Lyveden. It is an oblong building with projections, enriched with pilasters, and raised on open arches. On a central band is the inscription, "Thome Tresami militis fuit hoc opus in gratiam dulcis patriæ fecit suæ tribusque Northamptoniæ vel maxime hujusque vicini sibi pagi. Nihil præter bonum commune quæ-sivit nihil præter decus perenne amicorum. Male qui interpretatur dignus haud tanto est bono. Ao. Domini millesimo quingentesimo sept." On the cornice and elsewhere are the shields of the principal Northamptonshire families at the time of the erection. The walls were repaired in 1827, and in 1895 the building was fitted up as offices for the Urban District Council (on the ground-floor) and as a Public Free Library (on the upper floor). The Church of St. Mary, said to be the longest in the county, has Norm. portions (S. wall of chancel); Trans. (nave, chancel, and lower stages of tower); early Dec. (tower arch and lady-chapel on N. side of chancel); and Perp. (clerestory of nave and E. window). The transepts were removed in 1673; the spire fell in 1660, and the chancel was restored in 1848. This is the most striking portion of this interesting church. There is a brass for William de Rothwelle (d. 1361), Archdeacon of Essex, in cope, and another for Ed. Saunders, of Haryngton (d. 1514), founder of the chantry, and wife. The chantry which he founded now serves as the vestry. Under two bays of the S. aisle, immediately W. of the transept, is a crypt, 30 ft. 3 in. long, 15 ft. 6 in. wide, and 8 ft. 6 in. high. It is of the Trans. period, like the rest of the church, and had long been closed, when it was accidentally discovered by some workmen about the year 1700. It was then filled with carefully piled human bones, now

half-mouldered away. They may represent perhaps 4000 persons; and the bones were piled here, as in the crypts at Ripon, and at Hythe, in Kent, either when part of the churchyard was cleared, or as they occurred in making fresh graves. A local tradition (of course entirely without foundation) declares the remains here to be those of the men who fell at Naseby. The manor of Rothwell, from the middle of the 12th cent., belonged to the Earls of Clare, who may have been the builders of the church.

The village of Orton lies 1 m. S.W. of Rothwell.

1 m. E. of Rothwell is *Glendon Hall*, the property of Richard Booth, Esq., a house containing some interesting pictures, the most important of which is the portrait of Queen Catherine Parr, by *Holbein*. This is a full length, on panel, 70 by 34 inches. The under dress is richly patterned. The outer is damasked, open in front, with wide furred sleeves; rich jewels, and a jewelled head-dress are worn, and a pink is held between the hands. Catherine Parr was the youngest daughter of Sir Thomas Parr of Kendal, and Maud Green of Green's Norton, near Towcester (see Rte. 5), where the future queen was possibly born. This portrait (engraved in Baker) probably came to Glendon through its former possessors, the Lanes; one of whom, Sir Ralph Lane, married Maud, daughter of Lord Parr, the Queen's uncle, whose monument remain's in Horton Church. (See *H.Bk. for Beds.*) The other pictures here are—a 'Lucretia,' assigned to *Leonardo da Vinci*; Morning and Evening, *Albani*; Head of the Magdalene, *Carlo Dolci*; a Spanish boy, *Murillo*; two unknown portraits, *Janssens*; Lord Holland, the Countess of Pembroke, and an unknown head, *Van Dyck*; 'The Enraged Prisoner,' and a head of an

old man (both from Stowe), *Rembrandt*; and a landscape, also from Stowe, by *Gaspar Poussin*.—Glen-don is a small distinct parish, but has long been without a church.

Proceeding by train on the W. of the line is **Braybrooke**, 3 m. from Desborough Stat. The *Church*, All Saints, is E. E. and Dec., with a spire noted for its symmetry. The objects of interest in the church are a monument (pure Elizabethan) to Sir Nicholas Griffin (d. 1509), his son (d. 1565) and daughter-in-law; an effigy in oak of Sir John le Latymer (d. 1340); a fresco of Maud Swinnerton, widow of above (d. 1363), standing on swine, with traces of her two husbands on either side; the font, British work, with a mermaid eating a fish—a “vamp-horn”; and a finely-carved old oak chair. The door to the rood-loft still remains.

The Gothic bridge in the village was built by Sir Thomas le Latymer in 1330. Near the church (S.E.) stand “The Castle Grounds,” originally surrounded by a double wall with a moat between.

Lord Braybrooke takes his title (created 1788) from the parish, descended by female branches through Griffins le Latymers from the niece of William the Conqueror.

The Rly. shortly afterwards leaves the county and reaches

18 m. ★ **Market Harborough** (Stat.). (See *H.Bk. for Leicester-shire*.)

#### *The Route by Road.*

The road from London to Wellingborough, *viâ* Woburn and Olney (see *H.Bks. for Beds and Bucks*), reaches the borders of Northants shortly before reaching Bozeat (see Rte. 2), and after passing Strixton and Wollaston (see Rte. 2) reaches Wellingborough Stat., L. & N. W.

Rly., where a road branches off to the rt. to ★Higham Ferrers (4 m.). From the Stat. it is 1 m. further to ★Wellingborough.

Leaving Wellingborough, and proceeding due N. through Great Harrowden (2 m.) and Isham (4 m.) to ★Kettering (7½ m.). From Kettering the main road continues due N. through Great Oakley (12½ m.), thence to Rockingham (16½ m.), see Rte. 11. The road then quits the county and passes Uppingham (22 m.) to Manton and Oakham (28¼ m.), see Section II., *Rutland*.

The road to Market Harborough branches off from Kettering in a N.W. direction through Rothwell (11¾ m.) and Desborough (13¾ m.). After crossing the Rly. the road ascends Clock Hill and descends to Little Bowden, and reaches ★Market Harborough (19 m.).

Kettering is a good centre for cyclists exploring Northamptonshire, as there are good roads in all directions. The road to Stamford passes through Rockingham Forest; leaving the town on the E., the road turns in a N.E. direction past Weekley (1¾ m.); thence skirting Boughton Park on the rt. to Geddington (3¼ m.). Proceeding past Little Oakley on the l. and Stanion on the rt., Great Weldon (8¼ m.) is reached. The road then continues through Bulwick (12¼ m.) to Duddington (17 m.), passing Blatherwycke Park rt., and Laxton Hall on the l. (see Rte. 11).

From here the road ascends to Collyweston (18¼ m.), and Easton (20 m.), see Rte. 11, and thence descends the hill to ★Stamford (22 m.), see Rte. 3.

The road from Kettering to Northampton leaves the town at the S. end of the town, turning W. under the Rly., and thence in a S.W. direction to Boughton (3 m.). From here it is almost a straight run, passing Moulton to Northampton (14¼ m.), see Rte. 1.



## ROUTE 10.

## KETTERING TO HUNTINGDON.

(MIDLAND RAILWAY. 27 $\frac{3}{4}$  m.)

Rail.	Stations.
	Kettering.
4 $\frac{1}{4}$ m.	Cranford.
7 m.	Twywell.
9 $\frac{1}{2}$ m.	Thrapston.
12 $\frac{1}{4}$ m.	Raunds.
27 $\frac{3}{4}$ m.	Huntingdon.

From Kettering the line to Huntingdon passes E. through the centre of the ironstone district. The Staveley Company at Cranford, the Woodford, the Newbridge, the Islip, and the Thrapston Companies all send the iron ore (a hydrated peroxide) into Derbyshire, Staffordshire, and Yorkshire; whilst a great deal is also supplied to the Dowlais and Tredegar furnaces in S. Wales. The neighbouring villages are rapidly changing their character, owing to the influx of miners and surface men. Large smelting-works (Mr. Plevin's) will be seen on the rt. hand soon.

4 $\frac{1}{4}$  m. Cranford (Stat.). To the N. are the two parishes of Cranford St. Andrew and Cranford St. John. The small *Church* of the former contains *brasses* to John Fossebrok (d. 1418) and Matilda his wife, nurse to Henry VI., and to John Fossebrok (d. 1602) and his two wives. There are some oak carvings in the chancel, and the stairs to the rood-loft remain. Near to the church is *Cranford Hall*, the property of Sir F. V. L. Robinson, Bart., occupied by P. Mitchell, Esq., J.P. In the grounds is an ash-tree noted for its size. Here are the extensive mines of the Cranford Ironstone Co.  
[Northamptonshire.]

2 $\frac{1}{2}$  m. N. of Cranford Stat. is *Grafton Underwood*. The *Church* of St. James is worth notice. The tower is E. E., with some Dec. additions, and the spire is Dec. The aisle windows are Perp. Those of the chancel (except one, which is E. E.) rich Dec. There is an unusually long Perp. porch. *Within*, the nave arcade, of three bays, is E. E., but with some Norm survival. There are some fragments of Perp. wood-work; and a modern monument (an enamelled *brass* on a slab of black marble) for Lady Gertrude Fitzpatrick, daughter of John, Earl of Upper Ossory. A large wood in this parish (whence the name "Underwood") was enclosed and converted into a park by Simon de Drayton, 22nd Edward III.

7 m. Twywell (Stat.). The *Church* of St. Nicholas, a small Norm. and E. E. building (restd. in 1867), is interesting for the Easter sepulchre in the chancel. The font is Norm.

Woodford lies 1 m. S.E. of Twywell Stat. The *Church* of St. Mary the Virgin is an interesting building with an E. E. tower and Dec. spire. The pinnacles at the angles of the tower are Dec., and unusual in composition. The S. porch and door, E. E. and very graceful, deserve special notice. A small chapel, entered from the aisle, is attached to the porch on the E. side. A portion of the nave

arcade is round-headed, and the capitals are unusually sculptured; but it is quite possible that this work is not more ancient than the beginning of the 13th cent. Nave and aisles are crossed by arches at the fourth bay from the tower. The long and narrow chancel (D+c.) leans perceptibly to the N. The font is E. E. There is some Perp. woodwork in the church. In the N. aisle are the effigies of Sir Walter Trailli, and his wife Alianora, temp. Edward I. They are carved in wood, an unusual example. The lady's dress is covered with a diapered pattern, and both figures show traces of painting in vermillion. The Traillis (see *Yielden, H.Bk. for Beds.*) were for some time lords of the manor, and patrons of the church. In a recess cut into one of the pillars, and faced with glass, are the remains of a human heart, wrapped in coarse cloth. This is supposed to be the heart of a Trailli, killed in a crusade. In the chancel is the altar-tomb, with *brass*, of Symon Malory (d. 1580). Numerous Roman relics, including the foundations of a villa, have been found in this parish. *Woodford House* (C. H. Plevins, Esq.) is 2 m. W.

9 $\frac{1}{4}$  m. Thrapston (Stat., also a Stat. on the L. & N. W. Rly.). For description of this town see Rte. 2.

12 $\frac{1}{4}$  m. Raunds (Stat.). The village is 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  m. W. (The meaning of the name is very uncertain. *Rand* or *rond*, A.-S. = a border or edge, has been suggested, and the place certainly lies on the extreme limit of Northamptonshire.) The village is of some size, and it is one of the shoe-making centres of the district. For the visitor, the interest of the place is confined to the *Church* (dedicated to St. Peter), which is one of the most striking and important even in this part of North-

amptonshire. It was partly restored (1874-6) by *Sir G. G. Scott, R.A.* The magnificent tower and spire, dating from the first half of the 13th cent., are alone worth a journey to Raunds. The ground-plan comprises W. tower, nave with N. and S. aisles, S. porch, chancel, and a N. chapel or chantry opening from it. The lower parts of chancel and N. chapel are E. E. of the same date as the tower. Other E. E. portions exist in the nave and porch; and it is clear that the church was completed at one period. The nave with its arcade was rebuilt in the reign of Edward III., together with the clerestory of the chancel. The plan resembles that of most Northamptonshire churches, and exhibits a somewhat short, broadly spaced nave, with a well-developed chancel.

The church stands on high ground, which falls rapidly a little W. of the tower. This rises in four stages, each of which is richly decorated. In the lowest is the western doorway, a recessed porch, having the outer and inner arches elaborately moulded, with shafts in the jambs. On either side is a trefoiled arch, forming the head of a niche. In the second stage is a bold arcade, of which the two central arches contain lancet windows; the outer ones have quatrefoil lights, well moulded, and set in the panel contained by the arch. Between the spandrels of the arches are small quatrefoil sunk panels. The third stage is decorated in a very unusual manner. A tall pediment in the centre, and a half pediment on either side, rise to the moulding below the fourth or belfry stage. Under the central pediment is a two-light pointed window. Below, on either side, is a large quatrefoil, and a similar quatrefoil occurs above, on either side of the central pediment. The belfry stage has an arcade of six arches, the four central ones open as windows. Tall buttresses, two at each angle of the



tower, rise to the spring of the window arches in the belfry stage. At the top of the tower is a cornice filled with masks. The broach spire, rising to a height of 150 ft., is octagonal, without a parapet, and there are three ranges of spire lights. This spire was struck by lightning on the 31st July, 1826, and about 30 feet were thrown down. It was at once rebuilt, and the original character has been most carefully preserved. The roof of the nave was much damaged, and the repairs cost 1731*l*. It was again struck by lightning in 1895, when 11 ft. of the top had to be taken down and rebuilt. On the N. and S. sides of the tower, there are two arcades below the belfry windows, in some of the spandrels of which are figures playing on musical instruments.

The tower should be seen from a point at a short distance W., where the peculiar effect of the pedimented stage with the quatrefoils is very marked. On the *exterior* of the church, remark the windows (those of the N. aisle are original), Dec. with good flowing tracery in the headings. The fine E. window is E. E., of six lights, with plain circles in the head, the heads of the lights trefoiled. The chancel buttresses are good E. E.

*Within*, the nave, of five bays, is Dec., except the western responds on either side, which are E. E. The arches N. have hood-moulds terminating in corbels; those S. have no hood-moulds. The plain open roof, with spandrels filled with pierced tracery, is of the same date. The chancel arch is Dec. with deep hollow mouldings on the E. face; on the W. face the mouldings are shallow, and a double row of ball-flowers is set in them. It has been inserted across one of the E. E. side arches, and has a large buttress in the aisle to support it. Three plain E. E. arches divide the chancel from the chapel of S. Peter on the N.

side, also at first E. E., but with Dec. and Perp. insertions. The clerestory of the chancel is a Dec. addition. There is a piscina in the *east* wall, on the S. side of the altar, and two others with a sedile in the S. wall. At the W. end of the church remark the E. E. tower arch, deeply recessed, with a low arch of the 15th cent. inserted in it, in connexion with the vault then introduced in the tower. The composition of the double lancet above the W. doorway is of great beauty, with inner open arches having foliated headings, and carried on shafts with enriched capitals. The plain, round, E. E. font has a ram's head projecting from the side. The only tomb of interest is that of John Wales, vicar (d. 1496). The old frescoes on the walls are good. The choir stalls and the iron gates to the chancel were added in 1894. The bells were rehung as a memorial of Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, when two more were added to complete a ring of eight bells.

In the churchyard are the steps and shaft of a late Dec. cross, with emblems of the Evangelists on the four sides of the shaft. That of St. Matthew is, very unusually, a bird with a human face, instead of an angel.

The patronage of the church, at the time of its first (E. E.) building, seems to have been vested in the Crown; and in 1254, Edmund, son of Henry III., is recorded as presenting John of Twyford to the rectory. In 1355, Henry, Duke of Lancaster, gave the advowson to the Dean and Chapter of the College of Newark, in Leicester. These dates agree sufficiently with the two periods of the architecture; and the royal patronage to some extent explains the dignity and richness given to the E. E. building.

A very fine barn of the 13th cent., with high pitched roof and a range

of low buttresses, formerly existed near the church, but it has been pulled down.

A walk of 2 m. S.W. along high ground, commanding a wide extent of rich corn country, will bring the tourist to **Stanwick** (about 2 m. from Higham Ferrers Stat., on the L. & N. W. Rly.), where the *Church* of St. Lawrence well deserves a visit. It was originally E. E., with a tower, also E. E., but of somewhat later date. The church was altered in Dec. and Perp. times. The chancel was rebuilt in 1823; and there has been a later restoration. The special interest and peculiarity of the church, however, lies in its octangular E. E. tower, the effect of which, with its Dec. spire, is very excellent. The tower is an octagon, but the N.E. and S.E. sides are filled with the tower stairs, so that a square surface is presented to the body of the church. The basement storey is flanked by very good buttresses, which do not rise higher. The W. window is a single lancet, with a pierced octofoil above it. The belfry stage is slightly recessed from the lower octagon, and has an arcade of round-headed arches, of which those facing the cardinal points are pierced with two lancets. The octagon terminates above in a table of trefoiled corbels. The peculiar arrangement of the tower stairs should be noticed. Thus far the work dates from about 1220. The spire above may have formed part of the original plan, but is Dec. It is octagonal, ribbed at the angles, and has three ranges of spire lights. The total height is 156 ft. *Within* the church the best feature is the very fine and wide arcade, E. E., though the arches are four-centred, a form very unusual for that style. In the nave there have been Perp. insertions. The latest restoration has swept away a singing-gallery "done in

Doric woodwork," which crossed the tower, and interfered with the view westward. This and other adornments were placed here by the father of Richard Cumberland, who was for some years (1731-57) rector of Stanwick. The dramatist was himself born here. [The pulpit was the gift of John Dolben, Bp. of Rochester, 1678, as appears from an inscription on it.] The father of Bp. Dolben had been rector here (1623-1631). The font is very rich Dec. Ascelin de Waterville, temp. Henry II., granted his manor of Stanwick to the Abbot of Peterborough, and this, together with the patronage of the church, remained in possession of the abbey until the Dissolution. The church therefore was no doubt built by that great house. W. of the church is *Stanwick House* (Spencer Platt, Esq.).

After leaving Raunds Stat. the Rly. passes **Hargrave** (on the rt.). The *Church* of All Saints stands pleasantly among trees. The tower and spire are E. E., as was the original fabric of nave and aisles and chancel. The S. door has very rich mouldings, retaining a Norm. character. The E. E. clere-story of the nave is of quatrefoils. The church was carefully restored (1868), and in rebuilding an E. E. wall (not much later than 1200) a slab of Weldon stone was found, on which was roughly scratched a diagram such as is still used for playing the game called in Northamptonshire "Peg Meryll." This is the "Nine Men's Morris" of Shakespeare:—

"The crows are fatted on the murrain flock,  
The nine men's morris is filled up with mud;

And the quaint mazes on the wanton green  
For lack of tread are undistinguishable."

*Midsummer Night's Dream*, Act. ii., sc. 2.

It is still played in many parts of England, especially in the northern and eastern counties; and is known



by various names, "Blind Men's Morris," "Morels," "Maris," "Mill" (Devon). What the true form of the word is is uncertain, and its origin is unknown. (An old French form is Merelle.) The game, however, is very ancient, as the finding of this stone at Hargrave, and another resembling it at Sempringham in Lincolnshire, sufficiently proves. It is a sort of draughts, and is played generally in the field or on turf, where the diagram can be cut on the ground. Pegs or small stones are used for men. (See a very interesting paper on the discovery of the Hargrave stone by the late rector, Rev. R. S. Baker, in the 11th vol. of 'Reports of the Associated Archit. Societies.' The stone is now in the Northampton Museum.)

The Rly. soon enters *Huntingdonshire*, and after passing Kimbolton reaches

27 $\frac{3}{4}$  m. Huntingdon (Stat.). (See *H.Bk. for Hunts.*)

*The Route by Road.*

Leaving Kettering by the main road S., and then turning E. through Barton Seagrave (1 $\frac{3}{4}$  m. and Cranford St. John (4 $\frac{1}{4}$  m.), where it crosses the Rly., the road continues parallel to the Rly. as far as Twywell Stat., Midland Rly. (7 m.), where it again crosses the Rly. and proceeds to Islip, and after passing \*Thrapston Stat. (L. & N.W. Rly.) reaches the town (9 m.). After leaving Thrapston the road, before reaching Bythorn (13 $\frac{1}{4}$  m.), quits the county and continues to Huntingdon (25 $\frac{3}{4}$  m.).

ROUTE 11.

RUGBY TO MARKET HARBOROUGH AND PETERBOROUGH.

(LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY. 51 $\frac{1}{2}$  m.)

Rail.	Stations.
	Rugby.
3 $\frac{3}{4}$ m.	Lilbourne.
5 $\frac{1}{2}$ m.	Yelvertoft and Stanford Park.
9 $\frac{1}{2}$ m.	Welford and Lutterworth.
12 $\frac{1}{2}$ m.	Theddingworth (Leicestershire).
15 m.	Lubenham (Leicestershire).
18 m.	Market Harborough (Leicestershire).
23 m.	Ashley and Weston.
27 $\frac{3}{4}$ m.	ROCKINGHAM.
31 $\frac{1}{2}$ m.	Seaton (Rutland).
35 $\frac{1}{2}$ m.	Wakerley and Barrowden.
39 m.	King's Cliffe.
43 m.	Nassington.
44 $\frac{1}{2}$ m.	Wansford.
	1 m. Wansford Road.
	4 m. Ufford Bridge.
	5 m. Barnack.
	8 $\frac{3}{4}$ m. Stamford.
51 $\frac{1}{2}$ m.	Peterborough.

} G.N. Rly.

Avon, here but a small stream. From Theddingworth to Stamford it follows the river Welland. Both the Avon and the Welland mark the boundary of the county. The Rly. runs for the most part through Leicestershire and Rutland until reaching Wakerley, where it crosses the N.E. corner of Northamptonshire to Peterborough. Only those places adjoining the line, which are in Northamptonshire, are here noticed. For others, see *H.Bk. for Leicestershire and Rutland (post)*.

Leaving Rugby (see *H.Bk. for Warwickshire*) and passing Clifton Mill (Stat.), the line enters the county just before reaching

This line from Rugby follows for a part of its course the valley of the

$3\frac{3}{4}$  m. Lilbourne (Stat.). This place appears to represent the *Tri-pontium* of the 6th Antonine Itinerary. The Watling Street passed a very short distance W., and the Avon is crossed by a long bridge, the successor of the Roman "pons." There are traces of an encampment on either side of the stream; and at Lilbourne itself are other remains. Close to the river are banks and foundations, with a high mound on the N.W., Brito-Roman earthworks in all probability, which were turned to account in the building of a mediæval castle, the work (apparently) of Gerard de Camville, in the reign of Stephen. The walls of this castle have disappeared. It is asserted that a keep or watch-tower stood on the mound, and that the churches of Lilbourne and Claycoton were built from its materials. There is a second mound about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. W. of the village, with traces of a moat round it; and near the Watling Street, S. of Dovebridge, was a third, which has been levelled. The tradition of the place is that there was a great fight here between the Danes and Saxons; but nothing has been found to make it certain whether these mounds are sepulchral, or whether they served as "speculatoria." The *Church of All Saints* is partly E. E. (nave and aisles) with a low Dec. western tower. The rood-stairs and the sanctus bell-cote still remain.

$5\frac{1}{2}$  m. Yelvertoft and Stanford Park (Stat.). The village lies 2 m. S. from the Stat. The *Church of All Saints* is Dec., but a second S. aisle was added in the Perp. period, and there are other Perp. insertions. The Dec. porch seems to have been taken down and rebuilt in the 15th cent. In the chancel is a very rich tomb, with a window above it, of an ecclesiastic, probably John Dyeson, rector (1445-79), who left considerable sums for the repairs of the

church. On the exterior the space from the ground to the sill of the window is covered with courses of quatrefoils of different characters. The effigy within has a rich canopy of alabaster. The carved sedilia are Perp.

Midway between Yelvertoft Stat. and village is **Claycoton**, where the small Dec. *Church of St. Andrew* (nave rebuilt 1866) has a western tower with a low octagonal spire. In the chancel is a piscina richly carved. There are also some well-carved 15th-cent. bench-ends.

Just N. of the Stat., on the borders of Leicestershire, is **Stanford**. The manor belonged to Selby Abbey in Yorkshire, from a date soon after the Conquest till the Dissolution. It was then (1540) bought from the Crown by Thomas Cave, the representative of an old Yorkshire family, taking its name from the parishes of Cave in the E. Riding. Stanford descended to the daughter of Sir Thomas Cave, Bart., who in 1839 became Baroness Braye, the barony having been revived in her favour as the representative, through her great-grandmother, of the 1st Lord Braye. The older manor-house stood in the village near the church. The *Church of St. Nicholas* belongs throughout to the first half of the 14th cent., and is no doubt due to the Benedictines of Selby. The parapet and pinnacles of the tower, although debased additions, increase the general effect. The windows are of two characters, with plain/crossed tracery, and with rich geometrical headings. "The striking effect of the interior is due chiefly to the absence of seats throughout the aisles and a great part of the nave, and to the slenderness of the pillars, rising with continuous mouldings into pointed arches, which are surrounded by a hood of roll-moulding." An organ-



gallery intercepts the tower arch, and contains an organ once belonging to the royal palace of Whitehall, but sold by Cromwell and erected here. There is some good Perp. screen-work under the gallery. The rood-screen was brought from Lutterworth. The furniture of the pulpit and altar, besides the coverings of a large Bible and Prayer Book, were worked and given by Lady Rowe, wife of Sir Thomas Rowe, sent as ambassador to Constantinople in 1621. These gifts were designed as thank-offerings for the preservation of Sir Thomas and his wife in a great storm at sea, on their return from Turkey, whence "they precipitately fled on account of the Sultan's having discovered too great a regard for Lady Rowe, who remarkably excelled both in the beauties of her person and her mind." The history of the gift is recorded on a leaf of the Bible in contemporary writing. The church is rich in its ancient *stained glass* and its monuments. The glass fills the E. and four other windows in the chancel, and some windows in the aisles, and although it has been re-arranged and altered by incompetent persons, it is still of very great interest. It is chiefly Dec. with smaller portions belonging to the Perp. and Cinquecento styles. The earliest is in the E. window, and may date from the end of Edward II.'s reign. In the upper part of the window the glass remains in its original position. The lower portion is of later date, partly Dec. and partly (in the fine group of kneeling figures) Cinquecento. These figures, as appears from the arms on the tabard, represent members of the Cave family. In the other windows the glass may vary in date from about 1340 to 1360. "There is, however, so great a similarity between all of it, in drawing and arrangement of colour, as to justify the supposition that it

was all executed under the same superintendence, if not by the same artist."—*C. Winston*. There are various figures of holy personages and of saints. A local tradition bears that all this glass was saved at the Rebellion by the parishioners, who turned out in defence of their windows, and prevented the destruction of them by the Roundheads. (A full notice of it by the late *Mr. Winston*, will be found in 'Architectural Notices of the Churches in the Archdeaconry of Northampton,' 1849.) The *monuments* are of great interest, affording good examples of the 16th and 17th cent. work. There is, however, a sepulchral recess of much beauty in the S. aisle, with a mutilated recumbent figure. Of the more recent, there is one for the late Baroness Braye, by *Thorneycroft*; one for the Hon. R. Otway Cave, by *Westmacott*; and a third, by *Kessell*, for the Hon. Thomas Otway Cave. Nearly all the memorials in the church are for the family of Cave.

*Stanford Hall* (Lord Braye), in Leicestershire, stands on the N. side of the Avon in a deer park of considerable extent, and was built by Sir Roger Cave about 1670. It contains some fine stained glass, and a good collection of pictures which formerly belonged to the House of Stuart, including portraits of Charles I. and his Queen, Henrietta Maria, by *Van Dyck*. In the library are MSS. relating to the Stuart family, the journals of the House of Lords at that period, and relics of the Battle of Naseby.

The line after leaving Yelvertoft shortly crosses the Avon and enters Leicestershire.

9½ m. **Welford and Lutterworth** (Stat.). The village of **Welford** is 2½ m. S. in Northants. The *Church* of St. Mary was thoroughly restored in 1872 "as a memorial of Lieut.-Col. the Hon. F. W. C. Villiers of

*Sulby Hall*." The N. aisle was then rebuilt, and a S. porch erected—the whole under the direction of the then vicar, the Rev. G. Ayliffe Poole, everywhere known as a learned ecclesiologist. The S. arcade of the nave is E. E. (circ. 1240); the N. is new. The chancel is Perp., except the eastern bay with its window, which was allowed to remain when the rest was rebuilt (circ. 1430). Remark in the chancel the large unwieldy heads, serving as corbels; and (especially) the modern decorations, very striking and harmonious, all executed by the hand of Mr. Poole. There is some very good modern glass. The tower, early Perp., is an excellent example of a type common in this immediate neighbourhood, which have shallow pilaster-like buttresses clasping the angles, and terminating about the middle of the belfry stage; good W., and excellent belfry windows, sometimes in pairs, marked gurgoyles, and fine nave arches. In this church is a little silver-gilt paten, made about 1330; it is the only piece of pre-reformation communion plate in the county. In the parish is a large reservoir. About 2 m. is the site of *Sulby Abbey*, founded for Premonstratensians by Wm. de Widville (circ. 1115). There are no traces but the lines of foundations, two coffins, and the gracefully designed coffin lid (with floriated cross and staff) of an abbot (circ. 1250). *Sulby Hall* (Miss Mansel) was built about 1795 after a design by *Soane*.

*Hemploe Hall*, situated on Hemploe Hills, is the seat of C. H. Simpson, Esq.

Continuing by rail, the line passes the following places in Leicestershire.

12½ m. *Theddingworth* (Stat.), where the valley of the Welland is reached. The Avon descending from the high ground of Naseby

turns S.W. near Welford Stat. The Welland, rising from the same ridge, flows N.E. towards Stamford.

*Hothorpe Hall* is the seat of C. E. De Trafford, Esq.

15 m. *Lubenham* (Stat.). Here Charles I., on his way from Leicester to Oxford, lodged for the night between June 4th and 5th, 1645, at the house of a Mr. Collins, still remaining. The room is shown which the King used on this occasion, and again on the night between June 12th and 13th—after the retreat from Daventry. Charles was roused here at 2 A.M., and rode off to Market Harborough, whence he advanced to the battle-field of Naseby (see Rte. 4).

1 m. S.W. of Lubenham is *Marston Trussell*, where the Church of St. Nicholas has E. E. portions. It is known as "pudding-poke" Marston, because the main road terminates at the church in a *cul-de-sac*. At that place a number of the King's troops, in their flight from Naseby, were overtaken and cut to pieces—since from the nature of the ground they were unable to continue their retreat.

18 m. *Market Harborough* (Junct. Stat.)—see *H.Bl.* for *Leicestershire*.

2 m. E. on the road from Market Harborough to Stamford, is *Dingley*. The Church of All Saints is a Perp. edifice containing monuments to the Griffin and Hungerford families. *Dingley Hall* (Viscount Downe), standing on comparatively high ground, in a wooded park, E. of the church, occupies the site of a preceptory of Knights Hospitallers, who acquired property here in the reign of Stephen. These lands afterwards passed to the family of Griffin. Some portions of the preceptory remain. A house was built in 1558-60 by Edward Griffin,



then Attorney-General; the entrance tower and front wing of this still remain, with the date 1560; so also does the porch, dated 1558, E.G.—A.G., but this, which formerly faced the entrance tower, has been rebuilt in its present position. The S. front was built in 1684 by Sir Edward Griffin.

2 m. further on the Stamford road is **Brampton Ash**. The *Church* of St. Mary is an E. E. edifice with Perp. additions. It has a western tower with spire. There are *brasses* with effigies of a man in armour and his wife (early 15th. cent.) and to Simon Norwich (d. 1468) and his wife; also a mural monument with two figures to C. Norwich (d. 1605). In the tower is a fine ring of six bells, each having a curious inscription.

At another 2 m. on the road is **Stoke Albany**. The *Church* of St. Botolph (restored in 1872) is chiefly E. E. The manor-house near it, dating probably from 14th cent. during the tenure of the de Ros family, has some windows which may also be E. E. About 1 m. S. is *Stoke Albany House* (Captain G. J. H. Pearson).

On the main road  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. further E. is **Wilbarston**. The *Church* of All Saints is an E. E. edifice, with the sanctus bell-cote on the E. gable of the nave.

The railway from Market Harborough follows the left bank of the Welland and bends nearly due N., and then turning E. crosses the river into Northamptonshire, and a branch rly. to Nottingham and Leicester turns off to the left, just before reaching

**23 m. Ashley and Weston (Stat.)**. The village of **Weston-by-Welland** lies 1 m. to the W. of the Stat. The *Church* of St. Mary was entirely rebuilt in 1863 in E. E. style, and has modern stained-glass windows.

1 m. S. is **Sutton Bassett**. The Bassets were lords of the manor here temp. Henry II. The *Church* of St. Mary was rebuilt in the middle of the present cent. in Perp. style.

**Ashley** lies  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S. of the Stat. The *Church* of St. Mary is a good example of the smaller parish churches of the district of the late E. E. and early Dec. type. It was restored, enlarged, and the tower and spire were rebuilt in 1867 under the superintendence of Sir G. G. Scott, R.A. The chancel is richly decorated with marbles, coloured glass, and wall-paintings (by Clayton and Bell).

After leaving Ashley a branch of the G. N. Rly. from Leicester joins the rly., which soon crosses the Welland into Leicestershire and arrives at

**27 $\frac{3}{4}$  m. Rockingham (Stat.)**. The village is 1 m. distant on a ridge of colite which rises on the S. side of the valley of the river Welland. On the crest of the ridge stands **ROCKINGHAM CASTLE** (Rev. Wentworth Watson). It was founded by the direct order of the Conqueror, in the midst of a great forest district, which had been a royal hunting-ground before the days of the Confessor. "Rex Willelmus jussit ibi Castellum fieri" is the entry in Domesday. There is a tradition that the Castle was thus erected for the protection of ironworks, which were then numerous within the limits of the forest; but the natural importance of the site is sufficiently marked; and the Norm. castle, as in many other places, rose within earthworks of a far more ancient, probably British, period. (Lines of these earthworks are still very evident above the church, and immediately outside the present castle wall. They extend westward.) The height commanded what may

have been a ford of the Welland, or at least a place where the river was crossed; and as a watchtower it overlooked a great part of the valley. The first notice of Rockingham, after Domesday, is in March, 1094, when a great council was held "in the chapel within the castle," chiefly with reference to the recognition of the Pope, Urban II., and to the position with respect to him of Anselm, who had been consecrated Abp. of Canterbury, Dec. 4, 1093, but had not yet received his pall. (There were still two rival Popes; and Wibert or Clement was held to be the lawful Pontiff by the Imperialists. William Rufus had not yet recognised either.) The scene at Rockingham between Anselm and the Red King is vividly described by Eadmer, *Hist. Nov.* 26, who gives us "living pictures of the Red King's most trusty advisers, both clerical and lay." The council broke up without coming to any real decision on the questions at issue. A truce was patched up, and such submission as Anselm made was made with a reservation of his duty to Pope Urban. (See *Dean Church's 'Anselm'* for the best notice of this famous scene, and of its bearings on the great ecclesiastical questions of the time.) The castle was frequently visited by later kings, with whom it was in favour, like Northampton, for the sake of the surrounding forests. John was constantly here; Henry III., Edward I., and Edward II. often. Edward III. paid many visits to Rockingham; and in 1375 he ratified here the truce concluded at Bruges between himself and Charles V. of France. Rockingham was a royal castle; and the names of its constables (appointed for life, during the King's pleasure, or for a term of three years) have been recorded (see *Hartshorne's 'Rockingham'*) from A.D. 1199 to 1475, when Wil-

liam, Lord Hastings, received that office for his life. It was occasionally used for the safe keeping of prisoners; and after the fight at Dunbar (24 Edward I.) the Constable was ordered to receive and to keep in safe custody several of those who had been taken in Dunbar Castle. Numerous records exist of repairs and additions to Rockingham Castle. These will be found in the late Mr. Hartshorne's (privately printed) account of Rockingham. Reference should also be made to '*Rockingham Castle and the Watsons*,' by C. Wise, 1891. They do not, however, greatly illustrate existing remains. A "new tower" and "new chamber" are mentioned in 1214; and extensive repairs were carried on during the constableness of Richard de Holeybroc (1280-1283). There were frequent grants of timber from the royal forest for carpenter's work at the Castle. It may be as well to quote here part of Leland's description in 1545. "The castelle," he says, "standith on the toppe of an hille right stately, and hath a mighty diche, and bullewarks agayne without the diche. The keep is exceeding fair and strong, and in the walles be certain strong towers. The lodgings that were within the area of the castelle be discovered (uncovered) and faul to mine (fall into ruin). One thing in the waulles of this castelle is much to be notid; that they be embattled on booth, so that if the area of the castelle were won by coming in at either of the two greate gates of the castelle, yet the keepers of the waulles might defend the castelle. I marked that there is a strong tower in the area of the castelle, and from it, over the dungeon dike, is a drawbridge to the dungeon toure."

Very much of the castle has perished since Leland wrote this description. One of the "greate



gates," however, remains; the mound of the keep or "dungeon toure" may still be climbed; and the buildings in the first court, which were then "falling to ruin," were soon afterwards repaired and enlarged, and now form the habitable mansion. The massive *entrance gateway* is perhaps the most interesting portion of the building. It dates from 1275, and consists of an arch flanked by two circular bastion towers, with curtain walls extending on either side. The towers are pierced with what are known as "arblast holes," though it is difficult to see how they can have been used by bowmen. Fragments of Norm. carving are worked into the walls. This gateway admits us to the outer bailey or court of the castle—now containing the inhabited buildings. These occupy two sides; a third is formed by the gateway; and along the fourth is a raised terrace overlooking the valley. The buildings are partly of the 13th cent. (like the gateway) and partly of the 16th; much addition and rebuilding having taken place in 1585. The entrance doorway has an equilateral arch, with deep mouldings and shafts, and belongs to the former period. Immediately opposite, a door of similar character communicated with the inner court. A deep chimney is buttressed out from the hall; and two 13th cent. windows have been found adjoining. All this clearly indicates that the existing hall, now Elizabethan in character, occupies the site of an earlier one, and retains much of the original walls. The rest of the house is for the most part Elizabethan. The inner court is now intersected by a yew hedge of venerable antiquity; and at its further end is the keep mound, possibly part of the old British works. The whole enclosure, containing about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acres, is bounded

by a wall once nearly 9 ft. thick; portions of which remain in their original condition. (The chapel of St. Leonard, "*intra castellum*," in which the great council was held, stood probably between the main buildings and the keep, above the present cellars.)

The manor of Rockingham, of which the history is closely woven with that of the castle, passed through various hands, until, in the middle of the 16th cent., it came to Sir Edward Watson—who also received the castle from the crown. His son, Sir Lewis Watson, garrisoned the place for Charles I.; and was afterwards (1645) created Baron Rockingham of Rockingham. In 1714 the then Baron, another Lewis Watson, was made Earl of Rockingham. This earldom became extinct in 1746; but the barony passed to the last earl's cousin, Thomas Watson Wentworth, created in 1746 Marquis of Rockingham. His son, the 2nd Marquis, who died in 1782, was the chief of the Rockingham Administration, in which Fox and Burke had places. The manor and castle of Rockingham, however, have from the time of the first baron been vested in the Watson family, which still retains them. The existing relics and *pictures* in the castle are consequently of this house. The *hall* was brought to its present condition in the reign of Elizabeth; and, besides the mottoes of the family, an inscription is carried along the principal beams: "The howse shal be preserved and never wil decaye wheare the Almightye God is honoured and served daye by daye, 1579." In this *hall* and rooms opening from it are—portrait of Sir Jeffry Palmer, Attorney-General of Charles II.; Queen Elizabeth, in a brocaded (striped) dress of dark chocolate colour. From a rope of large pearls round her waist hangs a jewel which she holds up. The

face is shadowless. Sir Edward Digby Watson; on one side are the words, "Cuius dolori remedium patiencia, A. Dni. 1552"; on the other, "Secundum formam et habitum ætatis suæ xxxiii." Three boys at cricket (?) or some similar game; assigned to *Gainsborough*; and a small portrait called that of Elizabeth when 21 months old, but questionably. She is in a brocaded dress of red and white, with a large white apron, ruff, cap, and collar edged with lace-work. The eyes are brown, and there is a little light brown hair. In the left hand is a cluster of red rose-berries. The ground is a Turkey carpet. On the picture is the inscription, "Æt. 1  $\frac{3}{4}$ ." Observe also a curious portrait of Sir Edward Watson, blind, with both hands extended in prayer; date 1567. The upper part of the range of buildings at right angles to the hall is occupied by a long gallery with windows at the sides and a large window at the end, the usual gallery of an Elizabethan house, here very picturesque. Three chandeliers of Venetian glass hang from the roof. Among the pictures here are—Lord Strafford ( $\frac{3}{4}$  length in armour), *Van Dyck*. Miss Milles, afterwards 3rd Lady Sondes (seated, in white, blue sash and tall bonnet; landscape background), *Sir J. Reynolds*. Henry Pelham, Chancellor of the Exchequer (d. 1754), and secretary (a good picture, the arrangement evidently imitated from the famous Vandyck of Strafford). His wife, Lady Catherine Pelham, *A. Kauffmann*. (These were the father and mother of the 2nd Lady Sondes.) A large family group of Lord and Lady Sondes and four children; date 1732, *Hudson*.

The castle has been to some extent restored, and additions have been made, under the care of *Salvin*; but the main frontage has been

little touched, and a grand mass of ivy drapes the side of the gallery. Steps lead to the keep mound, which rises from the flower-garden. Gardens and grounds are extensive and very pleasant, rich in wood-walks and shrubberies. The park, of about 400 acres, is well stocked with deer. Beyond the enclosing wall, and overlooked from the keep, is a meadow known as the tilting ground, surrounded by trees (on one side by a fine avenue of limes). On the S. side is a moat, and a second moat occurs at a distance of about 70 yds. The park is much broken, and deep ravines stretch downward toward the river flats from the ridge over which the park extends, chiefly W. of the castle. There are some fine avenues, dating for the most part from the first half of the last century, when Duke John "the Planter" was busy at Boughton (see Rte. 9). The position of the castle is best seen from the terrace that extends in front of the hall-entrance. "Anywhere, the high site of Rockingham, backed with its avenues of limes and groups of forest trees, would be a fine one; but in Northamptonshire, the wild and broken ground of the park, and the abrupt slopes and earthworks on which the castle stands, make it signally unique. . . . The distant prospect indeed is not of rich woodland; but the long reach of the valley of the Welland, marked, but not marred, by the graceful sweep of the railway, with village after village grouped round its church on every rising ground, . . . present a scene of wider and more human interest than many a so-called richer view."—*James*. The scene in certain lights is fine; and when the river is flooded the effect is lake-like. The low hills of Leicestershire rise across the river. Holt, a house of the Nevilles, and Stoke Dry, belonging to the Digbys (who intermarried with Watsons), are



conspicuous; and the tower of Langton is a good landmark.

Close under the castle, on the N. slope, stands the village of Rockingham and the parish *Church*, dedicated (like the ancient chapel of the castle) to St. Leonard (a great forest saint, it may be remembered. Chapels dedicated to him frequently occur in wide woodlands). This church has been rebuilt—the nave in 1845, the chancel in 1868. The restoration is due to the Watson family, and to the zeal of a late rector, the Rev. H. J. Bigge. Portions of an early Dec. church were found during the rebuilding in 1845; but the building then removed dated from after the Restoration, since the old church had been in great part destroyed during a bombardment of the castle (held for the King by Sir Lewis Watson) by the Parliamentarians. The present church is very effective, and is of early Dec. character, with a low tower (the upper story octagonal) at the E. end of the N. side of nave. The seating is good, and the effect of the chancel, decorated and coloured throughout, excellent. Even the two large Watson monuments, N. and S., out of place as they are, give furnishing to the chancel. The modern stained glass of the E. window is a memorial to the Hon. R. Watson (d. 1853). The iron rail in front of the altar was the gift to the church of Lady Catherine Pelham (circ. 1730). The plate also was given by her. (Her portrait in the castle has been noticed.)

Of the *monuments*, that on the N. side of the chancel is a full-length figure of Anna, Baroness Rockingham (d. 1695), wife of the 2nd Baron, daughter of Lord Strafford. On the S. side is that of Lewis, 1st Earl of Rockingham (d. 1723)—and of his wife, Katherine (d. 1695), daughter of Sir George Sondes, afterwards Earl of Feversham. Earl

Lewis is in a "Roman habit." His wife has a book under the right arm. Cupids, wreaths, and marble flowers make up the composition. Other monuments, formerly in the chancel, have been removed into a chapel on the S. side. These are—Margaret Watson, fourth daughter of Edward, Lord Rockingham (d. 1713), a twisted figure with strained action; an altar-tomb with recumbent effigies of Edw. Watson (temp. Eliz.) and his wife, daughter of Kenelm Digby of Stoke Dry; Arabella Osenden (d. 1734), second daughter of the 2nd Baron Rockingham, a full-length figure in white marble; and many mural tablets, including those of three Viscounts Sondes. (This was a second title borne by the Earls of Rockingham. The grandson (maternally) of the 1st Earl was created Baron Sondes, and he assumed the name of Watson on inheriting the estates of his cousin, the 3rd and last Earl of Rockingham.) In the churchyard is a cross, erected about 1380.

The royal forest of *Rockingham* was one of the largest in the kingdom. According to a perambulation of 1286 (14th Edw. I.), it extended from Northampton to Stamford, in length about 33 miles, and from the Nene on the S.E., to the rivers Welland and Maidesell on the N.W., an average breadth of about 8 miles. But much of this country had been afforested after the accession of Henry II.; and a later perambulation in the reign of Edward I. considerably reduces the extent. An unsuccessful attempt to revive the older limits was made in the 17th of Charles I.; and the bounds were then settled "as they had been in the 20th year of James I." The forest now consists of three separate districts, called the Bailiwicks of Rockingham, Brigstock, and Clive. There are still deer, although their numbers are not great; and in spite of much denudation and reclamation of land, "many

venerable trees, scattered through the unreclaimed district, towering above the underwood, serve to point out the ancient boundaries." But this old forest country has no such glades and no such oaks as Sherwood; and the wanderer will hardly find his account in tracing its limits beyond the park of the castle.

2 m. S.W. of Rockingham is Cottingham. The Church is E. E. and Dec. It was restored in 1880, when the chancel was rebuilt. There is some doubt about the dedication of the church. In Ecton and in Bacon's 'Liber Regis' it is said to be St. Peter, but the village feast and tradition make it St. Mary Magdalen.

Adjoining is the village of Middleton.

A short distance further S.W. is East Carlton. The Church of St. Peter was rebuilt in 1778 in an imitation of the Dec. style, which is unusually good for that period. A mortuary chapel contains some monuments to the Palmer family.

East Carlton Park (Earl of Norbury) is well wooded, and stocked with deer. The house was restored and enlarged in 1870.

The Rly. continues on the N. side of the Welland and enters Rutland. After passing 31 $\frac{3}{4}$  m. Seaton (Junct. Stat.) (see *post*, *H. Bk. for Rutland*), it re-enters Northamptonshire at

35 $\frac{1}{4}$  m. Wakerley (Stat.). The village lies on the S. side of the Welland. The Church of St. John the Baptist (restored in 1875) has a Norm. chancel arch, but is chiefly E. E. and Dec. Barrowden (see Section II., *Rutland*) lies on the other side of the river.

Duddington, 3 m. E. of Wakerley, is on a high road from Peterborough to Uppingham, where it crosses the

Welland, which here divides Northants from Rutland. The Church of St. Mary Magdalen has Norm. and E. E. portions. There are some picturesque old houses in the village.

1 $\frac{1}{2}$  m. N. on the road to Stamford is Colley Weston. This place has long been famous for its *slate quarries*, which were worked from a very early period, and Colley Weston slates have long formed the principal roofing material of this part of England. They are still largely used, and were employed by Sir G. G. Scott, R.A., for the roofs of St. John's Chapel, Cambridge. The bed which belongs to the Inferior Oolite, and lies at the base of the so-called Lincolnshire limestone, the uppermost formation of this oolite (to which the Ketton and Weldon stones, see *ante*, belong), is thin, of calcareo-arenaceous character, and upon exposure to frost readily splits up into slates, not in the planes of cleavage, as in the case of Welsh or Westmoreland slates, but in the planes of its finely laminated stratification." — *S. Sharp*. The quarries afford employment for a large industrial population. Among the more remarkable fossils found in these slate-beds are: a beautiful, and before its discovery here, unknown winged univalve *Pterocera Bentleyi*, a crustacean of the genus *Pseudo-phyllia* (a small lobster); and a unique star-fish, found by Mr. Sharp, *Astropecten Cotteswoldia*, var. *Stamfordensis*.

The Church of St. Andrew (restored in 1857) contains a vault of the Tryon family, and a brass to Elizabeth Follett (d. 1558).

To the N.E. towards Stamford is Easton-on-the-Hill, situated, as its name implies, on elevated ground. The Church of All Saints is an E. E. edifice, restored in 1888.

2 m. S. of Wakerley is Laxton



*Hall* (James Hornsby, Esq., J.P.). The house was built from a design by J. H. Repton, and contains some pictures. The village of **Laxton** is further S. The *Church* of All Saints, standing on the high ridge, is E. E. and Perp., and was restored throughout in 1867.

Leaving Wakerley the Rly. passes *Fineshade Abbey* (the property of E. P. Monckton, Esq., J.P.), a modern house, built partly on the site of a priory of Augustinian Canons, founded here by Richard Engayne (d. 1208), after the demolition of Castle Hymel, which stood near but on higher ground. This castle, of which nothing is known, was destroyed in the reign of John, according to Bridges, and may have been one of the strongholds seized and demolished by the King at the beginning of the struggle with the barons. The annual value of the Priory, at the Dissolution, was 62*l.* 16*s.*

**39 m. King's Cliffe** (Stat.), a small town where wood carving and turning is carried on. There was here a small royal hunting-lodge, and adjoining was Cliffe Park, an enclosed portion of Rockingham forest, of which the keepership was granted by the Crown to the Cecils. The *Church* of All Saints (restd. 1863) is cruciform, with a central tower with spire. It contains some old wood work and stained glass, brought from Fotheringhay. William Law (d. 1761), the author of the well-known 'Serious Call to a Holy Life,' was born and buried here; and there are some memorials of his family in the church. There is an old library in the town, consisting chiefly of valuable theological works left by the Rev. Wm. Law, "for the use of this and ye neighbouring towns." In the rectory garden are three arches brought from the old castle of Fotheringhay, also the base of the old village cross

with a modern shaft. In the parish is a chalybeate spring of similar properties to that of Tunbridge Wells.

2 m. S.W. from King's Cliffe is **Blatherwycke**. The *Hall* (H. S. O'Brien, Esq., J.P.), standing high, in the midst of a pleasantly wooded country, and in a large deer park. A fish pond in the grounds covers an area of 58 acres. The *Church* of Holy Trinity, in the park, has Norm. and E. E. portions.

2 m. further, on the main road from Stamford to Kettering, is the village of **Bulwick**, with *Bulwick Hall* (G. T. L. Tryon, Esq.) on the rt., where the formal gardens are interesting. The *Church* of St. Nicholas, restored in 1870, has a good Perp. tower and spire. The fittings of the interior, open seats, pulpit and lectern of carved oak, and reredos of alabaster and marble, are all modern.

Another mile further S. on the rt. of the road to Kettering is **Deene**. Here the whole country is much wooded, and the views, if not wide or far extending, are very pleasant. Deene has been in the hands of the Brudenell family since 1514, when it passed to them from the Littons. Robert Brudenell was a Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. His descendant, Thomas, was made a baronet by James I.; and by Charles I. (1627) was created Baron Brudenell, of Stanton Wyville in Leicestershire. He was a zealous royalist, and was imprisoned in the Tower from 1640 to 1660. In 1661, after the Restoration, he was created Earl of Cardigan. His descendant, the 7th Earl, Lieut.-Col. of the 11th Hussars; died in 1868, when the title became extinct.

The *Church* of St. Peter, sur-

rounded by trees, stands very near the hall, and was restored by Lady Cardigan in 1869. It was in fact almost rebuilt; and little of the original structure remains beyond the main arcade and the tower and spire. The general character is early Dec. The piers are circular, the arches fine and lofty, and there is some good sculpture. The lower portion of the tower, including the W. doorway, is E. E. The remainder and spire are early Dec., and the arrangement of the latter is very peculiar and beautiful. The window openings at the base are double, under small gables, with shafts at the angles. On each gable is a cross, and under each window is a trefoil-headed opening, without tracery. Half-way up are small spire lights, also gabled. The tower windows are of the same date. The whole is one of the most beautiful combinations even in Northamptonshire. The costly restoration of the interior deserves especial notice. In the course of the work the chancel was lengthened, and the chapels added. In the new Brudenell Chapel, at the E. end of the S. aisle, all the family monuments have been collected, and a memorial of the last Earl of Cardigan, the leader of the celebrated charge at Balaclava, by *Boehm*, occupies the chief position. On an altar-tomb with shields of arms at the sides and bronze sea-horses, the Brudenell crest, at the angles, are the recumbent figures, in white marble, of the late earl and his wife, the surviving countess. He is laid at length, and she is partly turned towards him, as if asleep, with her left arm under her head. At the ends of the tomb are bas-reliefs in bronze representing the charge of Balaclava, and an address to the troops. Of the other monuments in this chapel (principally of the 16th and 17th cent.) the most notable is that of Sir Robert Brudenell (d. 1531) and his

two wives. Note also a bust by *Guelfi* of a Duchess of Richmond (d. 1722), daughter of Lord Brudenell. (The Brudenell shield is arg., a chevron between three caps of maintenance.) Here is placed a remarkable reredos, dated 1635, which was formerly in the chancel. It has three circular panels, of which that in the centre displays a flaming heart, pierced with nails. The modern glass in the E. window is by *Lavers* and *Barraud*. The altar is magnificently vested. In the churchyard are two large and ancient yew-trees.

**Deene Park** (Countess of Cardigan), which is picturesque and extensive, is well wooded, with an avenue mainly of beech and elm, extending round the park for  $4\frac{1}{2}$  m., whilst another reaches nearly to Rockingham. Oaks are scattered in clumps. The deer are numerous, and besides fallow there are about 100 head of red deer. The *house*, of more than one date, is built round a quadrangle, and the general character is late Tudor. The beautiful central hall, with a fine open roof of carved chesnut, dates from 1086, when it was *Deene Abbey*, the summer residence of the Abbot of Westminster. It is 50 ft. long and 50 ft. high. The inner court has a portal with Ionic work which may be Jacobean; and there are enriched ceilings in some of the rooms of the same date. A room near the main entrance is panelled, and has an inscription over the chimney-piece, "*Amicus fidelis protexio (sic) fortis.*" Another room has the shield of Henry VII., and the words "*Vivat Rex*"; and in it, according to the tradition of the house, King Henry slept after the battle of Bosworth. There are curious secret hiding-places used by the Cavaliers, and there is said to be an underground passage to *Kirby Hall*, the residence of Sir



Christopher Hatton. The ball-room was built by the late Earl in 1861, and the Countess designed most of the heraldic-painted windows. It is a splendid room, 70 ft. long and 40 ft. high, with a music gallery. The house is well arranged with the principal rooms *en suite*. They contain many Brudenell portraits. There is a fine portrait of the first Countess by *Sir Peter Lely*; also several other portraits by *Sir Joshua Reynolds*. There is an early portrait by *Grant*, and one in the hall by *Buckner*. A pleasing picture by *Sant* represents Lord Cardigan explaining the charge at Balaclava to the Prince Consort and the young princes. The gardens and grounds are pleasant and extensive; and in the latter is a fine oak-tree, a tablet attached to which states that the tree was raised from an acorn found in a large piece of oak in Woolwich Dockyard, and planted here in 1757 by Lady Eliz. Brudenell, daughter of George, Earl of Cardigan, created Duke of Montagu. She was afterwards Duchess of Buccleuch.

43 m. Nassington (Stat.). The village lies to the S. on the borders of Huntingdonshire. The Church of the Virgin Mary and All Saints (restored in 1885) is of varied architecture with some Norm. portions. The upper stage of the tower is octagonal and is surmounted by a crocketed spire, and the aisles extended on either side of the tower are unusual. Within the building are the shaft of an ancient cross, several frescoes, and some old stained glass. The pulpit is Jacobean and has an hour-glass stand attached. Near the church is the old Prebendal House (now a farm dwelling), retaining some of its original windows.

Yarwell is 1 m. N. of the Stat., where the Church of St. Mary [Northamptonshire.]

Magdalen is an ancient building, altered at the end of the 18th cent.

3 m. W. of Nassington is Apethorpe. In the Church of St. Leonard is the monument, with effigies, of Sir Anthony Mildmay, son of the builder of the house, and his wife, daughter of Sir Henry Sherington, of Laycock, in Wilts. There is a lofty canopy, and around are figures of Faith, Hope, Charity, Justice, Wisdom, and Devotion. The monument was erected by their son-in-law, Sir Francis Fane. In Bridge's time the E. window retained much stained glass, with the date 1621, the gift, no doubt, of the same Sir Francis, afterwards the 1st Earl. In the churchyard is the shaft of an old cross.

In the village there are still in good preservation the stocks and whipping-post.

A Roman "vicinal way," still in great part to be traced, ran from Fotheringhay to Stamford, where it joined the Ermine Street; and a considerable Roman villa was discovered in 1858, in the park of Apethorpe, at the back of the house. The site is low, raised but little above the Willow-brook (the "brook" of Julian Fane's verses). There were many rooms, two of which retained pavements arranged in graceful patterns, the material being terra-cotta tassellæ, mixed with others of a dark grey, on a white ground. The whole formed an irregular court, surrounded by groups of buildings. There were baths, supplied with water from the rising ground behind, which is full of springs. The pottery found was from the kilns of *Castor* (*Durobrivæ*, see *post*). Among the coins was a silver Severus, and a 3rd brass of Constantine the Great. Remains of a similar villa have been found at Cotterstock; and, as has already been said, Roman relics are scattered over all this part of Northampton-

shire,—the ironstone (certainly worked at that period), and the great woods for hunting, having attracted a considerable population.

**Apethorpe Hall** (Earl of Westmorland), a house of great interest. Apethorpe (in some early documents called "Apelthorpe") became the property of Sir Walter Mildmay in the reign of Edward VI. This Sir Walter, son of Thomas Mildmay, of Chelmsford, became Chancellor of the Exchequer, and, himself a zealous Puritan, was the founder of Emmanuel College at Cambridge, which he built with a double quadrangle, on a similar plan to his house at Apethorpe. His son, Sir Anthony, succeeded him; and his only child and heiress, Mary, became the wife of Sir Francis Fane, created Earl of Westmorland in 1624. In that family Apethorpe has ever since remained. It has been thus described in verse by one of the most accomplished sons of the house, the late Julian Fane (d. 1870):—

“The moss-grey mansion of my father  
stands  
Parked in an English pasturage as fair  
As any that the grass-green isle can show.  
Above it rise deep-wooded lawns; below  
A brook runs riot through the pleasant  
lands,  
And blabs its secrets to the merry air.  
The village peeps from out deep poplars,  
where  
A grey bridge spans the stream; and all  
beyond  
In sloping vales and sweet acclivities  
The many dimpled, laughing landscape  
lies.  
Four-square, and double-courted, and grey-  
stoned  
Two quaint quadrangles of deep-latticed  
walls  
Grass-grown, and moaned about by troops  
of doves,  
The ancient house! Collegiate in name,  
As in its aspect, like the famous Halls,  
Whose hoary fronts make reverend the  
groves  
Of Isis, or the banks of classic Cam.”

‘Mémoir’ by *R. Lytton*.

Of the two quaint quadrangles,  
the whole of the second and part

of the first date from the 15th cent. The remainder of the first was added by Sir Francis Fane in 1623, but the S. front was rebuilt in the early years of the 19th cent.

At this house (for it is asserted that the same king gave timber for building the E. and S. sides) James I. dined on his journey from Scotland in 1603, and it is said gave or allowed the owner to have executed the statue of himself, which is now in the entrance hall. Here also, on a later visit, in 1614, he saw for the first time George Villiers, destined to become the powerful Duke of Buckingham. There had been some plotting to present a new favourite to the king; and Villiers, then a lad of 16 or 17, was brought to Apethorpe by Anthony Cade, of Bettesworth. Apartments, called the king's and the duke's chambers, are still shown, and on the chimney-piece of the latter is a representation of the ship which carried Prince Charles and the Duke to Spain; and beneath it a hand supporting a ducal coronet and the Prince's feather. There is a long and fine wainscotted gallery, with a richly ornamented ceiling, and at the end, a portrait of Sir Walter Mildmay, founder of the house. It was he who, with Sir Amyas Paulet, delivered Elizabeth's letter to Queen Mary at Fotheringhay; and he had been one of those who sat on her trial. Here is also the "lively portraiture" of the Lady Grace, wife of Sir Anthony Mildmay, who, according to a tradition of the house, "walks" on certain nights, scattering silver pennies behind her. This is probably a recollection of her charity in life. It is recorded on her monument in the church that she was "helpful with phisick, cloathes, nourishment, or counsels to any in misery." She founded "four quarterly sermons," besides leaving



out apprentices. Other pictures to be specially noted are two fine works by *Van Dyck*, Rachel, daughter of Francis, 1st Earl of Westmorland, a full-length, in white; "an elegant picture in his latest silvery tones"—*Waagen*; and James Stuart, Duke of Richmond, full-length (known by Earlom's engraving). George Villiers, æt. 16; and another at a more advanced age by *Janssens*. By *Sir Joshua Reynolds* are—Earl of Westmorland in a garden. He wears a rich suit of red velvet, and the picture, which remains unfaded, is "a masterpiece of colouring and vigorous movement." The son of this Earl—and a young Earl, seated between his two guardians, who are standing—a picture much faded in the flesh tones, but one of the capital works of the master.

The park of Apethorpe comprises a considerable extent of ground; and *Morhay Lawn* was anciently included in it. The park, and all this domain, formed part of the grant from Edward VI. to Sir Walter Mildmay; and had been crown land, included in the forest of Rockingham. The "lawn" (the true old forest term) deserves a visit. A road through fields from Apethorpe leads to it, passing at the back of the house, where are some fine small-leaved elms, and an ancient dovecot. Apethorpe Lodge, a stone farm-house, is seen on the top of the hollow, W. The lawn itself is an open grassy space, with a hollow in the centre, to which the ground slopes each way. Round it are many pieces of wood, with much deep undergrowth of brake and tangled brushwood. On the E. side of the hollow are many old thorns gathered into groups. On the W. are the *Morhay oaks*, famous old trees, of unknown age, much shattered, and many of them hollowed. A few come out in full leaf. Others have only thinly clothed boughs, with projecting splinters of ribbed wood.

The largest oak is about 20 ft. 6 in. in circumference at a foot from the ground. There are, perhaps, twenty or thirty trees; and some antiquaries found here a double circle of oaks, and held that Morhay was a "Druidical centre." The circles are really as shadowy as the Druids. One local authority asserts that the trees "were there before the deluge." Another compares them to the "fleet at Spithead"; and although they are no longer "hearts of oak," they may not unfairly suggest some such gathering with their vast trunks "anchored" over the lawn. From the highest point of the lawn a wooded country is commanded. The whole scene is wild and pleasant. The "hay" of "Morhay" occurs over the forest region (Fotheringhay, Woodhay)—and signifies a "haia" or "hedged" enclosure for restraining the deer.

1½ m. S.E. of Apethorpe is **Wood Newton**—a name which indicates that it was anciently one of the closest parts of the great Rockingham forest. The Church of St. Mary has a remarkable Dec. window—triangular-headed. A capital of one of the pillars is enriched with fine heads and grotesque ornament.

Continuing by rail the line crosses the river Nene and enters the extreme N.W. corner of Huntingdonshire, where it joins the line from Northampton to Peterborough (see Rte. 2).

44½ m. Wansford (Stat.).

[Here a short line of the G. N. Rly. branches off N. to Stamford.

At 1 m. Wansford Road (Stat.). The village of Wansford is 1 m. W. An old bridge of 10 arches (formerly 13) carries the Great North Road across the river Nene, which here divides the county from Hunts. The Church of St. Mary con-

tains a remarkable Norm. font, and has a fine Norm. doorway beneath a Grecian porch, dating 1663.

1 m. N. of Wansford is **Thornhaugh**, where the *Church* of St. Andrew is a Perp. building with Norm. remains. The tower was rebuilt in 1889, when the church was restored. In the chancel is an E. E. piscina; and in the transept there is a monument with a recumbent effigy of Sir William Russell (d. 1613), who was the ancestor of the ducal house of Bedford, and the origin of its early title "Baron of Thornhaw."

**Upton** lies  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. N.E. of Wansford Road Stat. The *Church* of St. John the Baptist, formerly a chapel-of-ease to Castor, rebuilt in the 17th cent., retains some Norm. pillars. In the aisle, separate from the nave by a parclose, is a canopied monument in classic style, with effigies of Sir William Dove (d. 1633) and his two wives. The pulpit, altar rails, and communion table are of carved oak. Near the church are remains of the Manor House (incorporated in a farm dwelling), which was once the residence of Thomas Dove, chaplain to Queen Elizabeth and afterwards Bishop of Peterborough. An old sun-dial (probably 17th cent.) still remains on a wall.

4 m. **Ufford Bridge** (Stat.). The village of **Ufford** lies to the E. The *Church* of St. Andrew, an E. E. edifice, contains a marble monument in the chancel, with a recumbent figure of Dame Bridgett, Lady Carre (d. 1621), who was gentlewoman to Queen Elizabeth and Anne, Queen of James I., erected by her sister Catherine, wife of George Quarles of Ufford. The chancel was restored in 1883. The fine Perp. font and cover (described in Paley's 'Book of Fonts'), the double E. window, and the double doorway

**Wittering** lies 2 m. W. of Ufford Bridge Stat. on the old Great North Road. The *Church* of All Saints is interesting for the extent of its Saxon remains. There is "long-and-short" work at the angles of both chancel and nave; and as the chancel arch seems to be also of earlier date than the Conquest, it shows the ground-plan of the original church. The work at the angles projects, so as to form a narrow and shallow pilaster. The chancel arch is very rude and massive, the capitals immense blocks, without moulding or decoration. A Norm. N. aisle was added to this first church; and the arches somewhat resemble those at Barnack. The tower and spire are E. E., and there are Dec. insertions in the building. Wittering belonged to the Abbey of Peterborough before the Conquest.

5 m. **Barnack** (Stat. There is also a Stat. at Uffington and Barnack, Midland Rly.). This place is famous for its ancient stone quarries, and still more famous for its church. The *Church*, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, consists of W. tower, nave, and aisles, chancel, and N. and S. chantries. The tower is one of the most interesting examples in this country of Saxon work, and it is presumed to have been built by Bishop Wilfrith, of York.

The tower, built of Barnack stone, has "long-and-short" work at the angles, and narrow, square-edged bands of stone project from all four walls at intervals. A plain string-course, of the same character as the upright ribs, runs horizontally along the walls, dividing the tower about midway. On the S. side, over a small window, is a rude carving of two birds; and above this is the trace of a circular sun-dial. There



are thirteen windows altogether in the tower: eight are open, and five are blocked up. The four in the top stage have angle-shaped heads, whilst of those in the middle stage four are round-headed, and two triangular, but round within. Resting on the middle string-course, in the centre of the S., W., and N. sides, is a stone about 6 ft. high and 2 ft. broad, built upright into the wall. On each stone is rude carving; the design being a *vine* with many offsets, curled and twisted. On the top is perched a bird. A doorway, the triangular heading of which is formed by two slabs of stone set edgeways, has been blocked up. The tower is not so massive, or so enriched with stone strips, as Earl's Barton; but the general character is the same, and there is the same impression of remote antiquity.

On the upper part of the tower is set an E. E. octagon, flanked by four pinnacles, and surmounted by a low broach spire. There is an excellently designed belfry window at each of the cardinal points; and the whole unites in a very striking manner with the more ancient tower.

Within the church the Saxon arch between the tower and the nave was, until 1855, blocked up with E. E. stone work, which was removed by Dr. Argles. In removing the débris the remains of the Saxon floor of the tower was discovered, amongst which were molten lead and ashes of oak, considered to be the result of the burning of the church by the Danish Sweyn, as recorded by Ingulphus, in 1013. A sedile was also discovered within the tower, which Dr. Argles considered to be the seat of a local judge, and he placed stained glass in the W. window representing the scene supposed to have been enacted below, but considering the two rough ambries in the wall, Canon Syers thinks the principal figure

should have a mitre instead of a crown.†

The change of the primitive church was begun early in the 12th cent., when the Norm. arcade of the *N. nave aisle* was built. The arcade has tall shafts, with richly carved capitals and richly moulded arches. The *S. aisle* was added at the beginning of the E. E. period; and the arcade has banded shafts, though the arches remain circular. To it is attached one of the most beautiful *porches* in this part of the country. It has a lofty entrance arch, with excellent mouldings, shafts, and capitals; and within on each side is an arcade of four arches. The roof is a high pointed gable, of stone without, and vaulted within. The *font*, dating about 1250, is a splendid specimen of E. E. In the Dec. period many changes were made in aisles and chancel. The E. window, the piscina and sedilia are of this date. (There are fragments of Dec. glass in the window.) The S. and N. chapel are Perp. In the S. chapel, which is much enriched, is a niche over the N. side of the altar, containing a sculpture of the Immaculate Conception (?). Canon Syers considers the N. chapel to have existed earlier, and to have originally been a priest's dwelling. In the chancel is a Jacobean mural monument in Derbyshire alabaster to Francis Whitstone (d. 1598), his wife and ~~seven children~~.

Dean Argles enriched the chancel with three stained glass windows, a reredos with mosaics, by Salviati, after Fra Angelico's well-known paintings in Milan. In the N. chapel, under two canopies, are figures of a woman, temp. Henry V., and a knight in chain armour, probably Sir John Barnacke, temp. Edw. III., and his daughter and

† See account of Barnack Church by the Rev. Canon Syers, M.A., in the 'Journal' of the British Archaeological Association. New Series, Vol. V., Part 1.

heiress. In the S. chapel is a handsome stone altar-tomb, with the arms of Robert Browne (d. temp. Edw. VI.) impaled with those of his wife. The woodwork is part of an old screen. The Brownes lived at Walcot (see *post*) from 1480 to 1636, and two members of the family were Lord Mayors of London. The S. chapel was added by the Brownes in the 15th or early 16th cent. of different stone, which marks the date of the giving out of the Barnack quarries. It is asserted that, before the Conquest, Barnack belonged, first to the Peterborough monastery, and afterwards, by grant of Waltheof, to Crowland. But this is doubtful, since the Domesday survey gives Bondi as the possessor in King Edward's days. William Fitz Ansculf was the first Norman lord. Then came a family named from the place, "de Bernak"; and at last it passed into the hands of the Cecils. Monastic houses like Peterborough and Crowland coveted Barnack for the sake of its quarries, famous from a very early period, but no longer worked. They have in fact been exhausted for nearly four centuries; and the strangely broken and tossed ground near the village, which marks their site, is known as the "Hills and Holes" (a resort for picnic parties). It is impossible to look without interest on the place from which the building stone was procured for so many great churches and monasteries. It belongs to an upper bed of the inferior oolite; and is very full of shells, some of the beds being composed almost entirely of shells agglutinated by a kind of calcareous cement. The stone is very hard and durable, qualities which were soon discovered by builders throughout eastern England. No precisely similar stone is now worked; but that of the Weldon quarries (see Rte. 9) is perhaps the equivalent of the Barnack beds.

Southorpe, a hamlet 1 m. S., was once the summer residence of the Abbots of Peterborough; it was surrendered to Queen Elizabeth, who bestowed it on the Great Lord Burghley. A mound of earth is all that marks the spot, as doubtless the Barnack stones of which Burghley house was built came from here.

About 1 m. S. is **Bainton**, where the *Church* of St. Mary has some Norm. and E. E. portions. Near it stands the remains of a village cross, consisting of four steps and part of the shaft. In front are the old stocks and whipping-post.

The line crosses over the rly. from Peterborough to Stamford, near Uffington and Barnack Stat. (see Rte. 3).

8 $\frac{3}{4}$  m. **Stamford (Stat.).**

For a description of the remainder of the line from Wansford to Peterborough, see Rte. 2.

#### *The Route by Road.*

The road from Rugby to Peterborough passes through Leicestershire on the N. side of the rivers Avon and Welland, until it reaches Market Harborough (18 m.). Here, after passing under the Rly. bridges, it crosses the river and proceeds through Dingley (20 $\frac{1}{2}$  m.), Bampton Ash (22 m.), down Bampton Hill and up Stoke Hill to Stoke Albany (23 $\frac{1}{4}$  m.). Thence to Wilbaston (23 $\frac{3}{4}$  m.), and after passing Middleton and Cottingham on the rt., and crossing the road from Kettering to Rockingham, Corby (29 $\frac{3}{4}$  m.), see Rte. 9, is reached. From here, after crossing the road from Kettering to Stamford at Great Weldon (31 $\frac{3}{4}$  m.), see Rte. 9, the route continues through Upper Benefield (35 $\frac{1}{4}$  m.), and Benefield (36 $\frac{1}{4}$  m.), to ★ Oundle (39 $\frac{3}{4}$  m.), see Rte. 2. From here the road is the same as that described in Rte. 2 to Peterborough (52 $\frac{1}{2}$  m.).



SECTION II.

RUTLAND.





## SECTION II.

# R U T L A N D .

## INTRODUCTION.

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### I. GENERAL CHARACTER AND STATISTICS.

No very great space is required for all that need here be recorded of the smallest county in England—"the provinciola minima" of Camden. Small as it is, however, it has its own good features. "Indeed," says Fuller, "it is but the pestel of a lark, which is better than a quarter of some bigger bird, having the most cleanly profit in it. No place so fair for the rider, being more fruitful for the abider therein." This description so far still holds good, that the north-western part of the county is the district of the Cottesmore hunt; and that the "riding" throughout it is only exceeded in "fairness" by that of the Leicestershire and Northamptonshire districts—the countries of the Quorn and Pytchley—which adjoin Rutland. The area of Rutland comprises 97,273 statute acres, equal to about 150 square miles. The population in 1901 is 19,708. The county is about eighteen miles in length from north to south, and fifteen in breadth from east to west; the circumference being nearly sixty miles. The shires which touch on Rutland are Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, and Lincolnshire.

Oakham (pop. 3550) is the county town, and the only other place of importance is Uppingham (pop. 2560), with its noted school.

The county nowhere rises into lofty ground; but it is marked throughout its whole extent (except on the north) by long ridges of land, running from east to west, the valleys lying between which are often of great richness. The vale of Catmose, in the neighbourhood of

Oakham, is probably the richest of these broad stretches of land. North of this valley the country rises into a wide table-land, overlooking a great part of Leicestershire. The only river of note is the Gwash or Wash, which, rising in Leicestershire, a little beyond the Rutland border, traverses the whole of the county, and joins the Welland a little east of Stamford. "The comon saying is ther," writes Leland, "that Wash and Wiland shal drown al Holande"—the fen country of Lincolnshire into which the united streams pass. Both these rivers are very liable to flood. There are smaller "riverets" draining other parts of Rutland; but although the valleys are sufficiently pleasant, and the views from the higher ground extensive, Rutland has no claim to be regarded as a picturesque county. The artist will find his best, perhaps his only, subjects in the villages, which are generally situated in the valleys. The churches are often fine; and whilst the adjoining country may be treeless, the church towers rise from the midst of well-grown elm and ash trees. The deeper wood is for the most part grouped about the parks of Burley-on-the-Hill, Exton, and Normanton; but other parts of the county are fairly wooded. Much of the country south and west of Oakham was indeed anciently included within the royal forest of Lyfield; and the "forest of Rutland" is mentioned in a charter of Richard I. (A.D. 1190).

Rutland has no manufactures; and the fine building-stone which is quarried on the east and north-east of the county is its most important mineral production.

## II. GEOLOGY.

The geology of Rutland resembles that of Northamptonshire; since the whole area of the county is included in the great Jurassic belt. The Ketton Quarries, in the Inferior Oolite, and those of Clipsham, have been worked from a very early period. The soil is in general a deep clay. On the whole, it is probably the natives of Rutland who will most fully accept and appreciate the praise of the county in Drayton's 'Polyolbion':—

"Love not thyself the less, although the least thou art,  
 What thou in greatness want'st, wise Nature doth impart  
 In goodness of thy soil; and more delicious mould,  
 Surveying all this isle, the sun did ne'er behold.  
 Bring forth that British vale, and be it ne'er so rare,  
 But Catmus with that vale for richness may compare.  
 What forest nymph is found, how brave soe'er she be,  
 But Lyfield shows herself as brave a nymph as she?  
 What river ever rose from bank or swelling hill  
 Than Rutland's wandering Wash, a delicater rill?  
 Small shire that can't produce to thy proportion good  
 One vale of special name, one forest, and one flood!  
 O Catmus, thou fair vale! come on in grass and corn  
 That Beaver ne'er be said thy sisterhood to scorn,  
 And let thy Ocham boast to have no little grace  
 That her the pleased Fates did in thy bosom place!  
 And Lyfield, as thou art a forest, live so free  
 That every forest nymph may praise the sports in thee.  
 And down to Welland's course, O Wash! run ever clear  
 To honour, and to be much honoured by, this shire."



## III. HISTORY.

The great historical question relating to Rutland, is how it became a distinct shire. As a shire it is of later date than the Domesday survey; in which a part of what is now Rutland is described under Northamptonshire, whilst the remainder, and the greater part, appears as an appendage to Nottinghamshire, from which Rutland is altogether separated by intervening portions of Leicestershire and Lincolnshire. On the whole, "the great divisions of our own times still follow those which William found in the land; so that within England proper—in marked contrast to most other parts of Europe—the map which represents the divisions of our own times represents, in the main, the divisions in the time of the Conqueror. . . . Domesday teaches us, better than any other witness of those times can teach us, that the England of the eleventh century and the England of the nineteenth, are one and the same thing. Rutland alone, in the very heart of the land, remains an insoluble problem."—*Freeman*, 'Norm. Conq.,' v. 40. It is impossible to trace the steps, or to determine the exact period, by or at which Rutland became an independent county. All we know is, that the change must have taken place at some time between the end of the eleventh century and the reign of John; since, in the fifth year of that king, among other lands assigned as a dowry to the Queen Isabella, appear "Com. Roteland et villam de Rockingham." This is the earliest notice of Rutland as a county; but it is remarkable that at a later period than this, "instead of finding the expenses of the shrievalty written on the great roll of the Pipe, like other counties, on a rotulet by themselves, they come in usually appended to Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, or Derbyshire."—*C. H. Hartshorne*, 'Archæol. Journal,' vol. v., p. 134.

The name "Roteland" was, however, applied to some portion of what now forms the county, at an early period. The "*Soca regis de Roteland*" appears in Domesday; and the will of the Confessor bequeathed "Roteland" to his queen, Eadgyth, for her life, and then to his newly established monastery at Westminster. The portion thus bequeathed, as we know, from other sources, comprised Oakham and the country round it. "Roteland," whatever the name may signify, belongs to the same class of names as Holland and Cleveland; and the district which the name indicated was, like them, isolated, and perhaps independent, long before the separate provinces of the Mercian kingdom were arranged in shires (see *Introduction* to Northamptonshire). It cannot be determined with certainty the meaning of the name, nor can it be said whether it is Anglian or Danish. "There goes a tale," says Wright, the old historian of the county, "of one Rut, who rid round this county in a day. In memorial of which act, the space of ground so encircled was from him called Rutland." Again it has been suggested that "Rotelandia" may be so named from its circular form "quasi Rotundalandia"; or that "Roet," old French for a "wheel" may be the root, also from this rotundity. But it need hardly be said that all this

etymology belongs to a pre-scientific period, and deserves no serious attention. Something more may possibly be due to the theory which makes Rutland "red land"; since there is certainly a small portion of the county marked by a very red clay, though hardly so red as "to stain the wool of the sheep that feed on it." On the whole we must be content to leave the meaning of the name and the origin of the county in much obscurity.

What is now Rutland was included in Mercia, and was within the bounds of the Denelagh. The division into "wapentakes," which has been held to be a mark of Danish occupation, occurs in it; but the wapentakes are also known as hundreds. There are no traces, in the county, of names which are certainly Danish.

The later history of Rutland is a blank, except in so far as the Castle of Oakham is concerned. For the history of the castle, see Rte. 1. The fight known as "Loosecoat Field" occurred at a place between Stamford and Stretton in 1740 (see Rte. 4).

Edward, eldest son of Edmund of Langley, 5th son of Edward III., was created Earl of Rutland in 1389 (13th Rich. II.). His nephew, Richard Plantagenet, succeeded him. This was the Duke of York, killed at Wakefield in 1460; and his son, Edmund, who had shortly before been created Earl of Rutland, was stabbed after the battle by Clifford. The earldom then became extinct in the royal house. In 1525, Thomas, 13th Lord Roos, was created Earl of Rutland. The 10th earl was created Duke of Rutland in 1703.

#### IV. ANTIQUITIES.

*a. Roman.*—The ancient road known as the Ermine Street, which if not of Roman origin was adopted by the Romans, ran through what is now the N.E. portion of Rutland (see Rte. 4). On it was an important station at Great Casterton (Rte. 4). Roman relics have occasionally been found on the line of this road, but none of great note.

*b. Mediæval.*—The *Churches* of Rutland are, many of them, of considerable interest. It deserves mention here that the round arch maintained its position in this district in a remarkable manner, after the Early English had become fully developed. The churches of Great Casterton, Clipsham, Stretton, and some others (nearly all in the northern portion of the county), afford good instances. The following are the churches which the ecclesiologist should visit.

##### *Norman*—

Clipsham	..	..	..	..	
Edith Weston	..	..	..	..	Trans.-Norm. portions.
Essendine	..	..	..	..	
Glaiston	..	..	..	..	
Ketton	..	..	..	..	Trans.-Norm. W. front.
Morcott	..	..	..	..	
Tickencote	..	..	..	..	



*Early English—*

Burley-on-the-Hill	..	..	..	Nave.
Empingham	..	..	..	Nave.
Great Casterton	..	..	..	Throughout.
Ketton	..	..	..	Fine tower and chancel.
Preston	..	..	..	Nave with Norm. portions.
Ryhall	..	..	..	Nave and chancel arch.
Stoke Dry	..	..	..	S. arcade with Norm. portions.
Stretton	..	..	..	

*Decorated—*

Ashwell	..	..	..	..	
Clipsham	..	..	..	..	
Cottesmore	..	..	..	..	Tower and spire.
Exton	..	..	..	..	With monuments of Harringtons and Noels.
Greetham	..	..	..	..	Tower and spire.
Lyddington	..	..	..	..	
Stoke Dry	..	..	..	..	With Digby monuments.
Uppingham	..	..	..	..	Arcade.

*Perpendicular—*

Langham	..	..	..	..
Oakham	..	..	..	..

**Domestic Architecture.**—The remarkable, and perhaps unique, hall of Oakham Castle (Rte. 1) must be mentioned here. In the town of Oakham itself is the house called Flore's, of Early English date, but much altered in Perp. times. The Bede House at Lyddington dates in great part from the end of the fourteenth century. Toilethorpe Hall, sixteenth century (but modernised); Exton Old Hall, ruins of an Elizabethan house; Hambleton Hall, a small Jacobean manor-house; and Burley-on-the-Hill, a Palladian mansion, are other interesting examples. Many of the villages have excellent specimens of small dwellings of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

**Military.**—The sole remains are some fragments of the wall of Oakham Castle, the moats there, and the moat at Essendine Castle (Rte. 5).

Among *modern buildings*, Exton Hall, and the new schools at Uppingham, deserve mention.

## SECTION II.

### R U T L A N D.

#### ROUTES.

\* \* The names of places are printed in black in those Routes where they are described.

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1. Stamford to <b>Oakham</b> and <b>Melton Mowbray</b> (Midland Rly.) . . . . .	222	3. <b>Oakham</b> to <b>Clipsham</b> (Road)	237
2. Stamford to <b>Rockingham</b> and <b>Uppingham</b> (L. & N. W. Rly.) . . . . .	231	4. Stamford to <b>Stretton</b> (Road —Ermine Street) . . . . .	241
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#### ROUTE 1.

##### STAMFORD TO OAKHAM AND MELTON MOWBRAY.

(MIDLAND RAILWAY. 25 m.)

Miles	Stations.
	<b>Stamford</b> (Lincolnshire).
3½ m.	<b>Ketton</b> .
6 m.	<b>Luffenham</b> .
10 m.	<b>Manton</b> .
13½ m.	<b>OAKHAM</b> .
16½ m.	<b>Ashwell</b> .
19 m.	<b>Whissendine</b> .
25 m.	<b>Melton Mowbray</b> (Leicestershire).

Leaving **Stamford** from **St. Martin's Stat.** the Rly. passes at 1 m. the village of **Tinwell** on the rt. The *Church* of **All Saints**, which has E. E. and Dec. portions, has a saddle-back tower. In the long chancel is a memorial to one **Herman Rainer** (d. 1668), "origine **Tanger**" (a native of **Tangier**, or

born there?) "qui novit multa et multis impertiit."

**3½ m. Ketton** (Stat.). The *Church* of **St. Mary** is fine and interesting, ranging from Trans.-Norm. through E. E. to early Dec. The central tower and spire should be specially noted. The interior, with its lofty and wide arches, its high tower piers, and the long chancel beyond, is very striking. The earliest portion is the W. front. Then follows the chancel (E. E.). The tower is a little later, but still E. E., and the nave arcade is early Dec. The exterior W. front has a round-



headed central portal, with a blind pointed arch on either side. All have the zigzag, and the outer moulding of the central arch has the dog-tooth laid at intervals into the hollow. The whole is a good example of Transition, though the E. E. must have been fully developed when it was built. The *chancel* is plain but excellent E. E., with very good buttresses. The noble E. E. *tower* has three belfry lights on each front; an outer pointed arch, enclosing two smaller. There is much dog-tooth. The broach spire (of later date) rises from a cornice. The spire itself has much variety, with canopied spire lights, and small niches for figures; and the whole composition is singularly rich and pleasing. The plain Latin crosses above the spire lights are noticeable. A gable mark on the N. side of the tower indicates the former existence of a transept. The *nave* has a remarkable cornice, with the ball-flower and other devices, under the battlement. *Interior*, observe the lofty arches of the nave, with high round piers, the capitals of which are hollowed, with nail-head in the mouldings. The great tower arches have also the nail-head, and there are remains of a good flowing pattern in red, on the E. side of the E. arch. The door above the W. arch (with gable mark above it) seems to have been an arrangement belonging to an earlier arcade. The chancel windows are long lancets. There are early Dec. windows on the N. side of nave; and a large Perp. insertion on the S. side. The octagonal font is Dec. The whole edifice is built of the local oolite, which becomes lichen-tinted and yellowish with age. It has been well restored. The mosaic under the tower is the work of a local artist. The only monument is a plain but good example, of A.D. 1594, for Ferdinando Caldecote.

Ketton belonged to Richard de Humet, in the reign of Stephen; and passed through several hands to the Haringtons, and from them to the Noels. Close to the famous freestone quarries, which were worked from a very early period, a fine church may be expected here; but the later work of the nave, at any rate, was not completed without some pressure from Hugh of Wells, Bp. of Lincoln (1209–1235), who granted an indulgence of twenty days to all who should, in any way, contribute to the fabric. The village is large and straggling; and a rent of 2s. was, until recently, paid to the sheriff “pro ocreis reginæ” (for the queen’s boots), an unusual charge, which may be connected with the shoemaker’s trade established at so early a period in the neighbouring county (see Section I., *Northamptonshire*, Rte. 1).

The *Ketton stone quarries* are a little beyond the village, on the l. of the road to Tinwell. The Ketton stone belongs to the Inferior Oolite. “It is of that peculiar grain from which the term ‘oolite’ (or roestone, or egg-stone) is derived; and is composed entirely of small egg-shaped grains, embedded in a calcareous matrix. A polished section of the stone generally shows that each of these oval-shaped grains has a minute nucleus (either siliceous or consisting of a shell fragment) enclosed in concentric calcareous films. It is a stone very easily worked, of a good cream colour, and very durable, hardening under atmospheric exposure.”—*S. Sharpe*.

2 m. S. of Ketton is *Tixover*. The *Church* of St. Luke, which stands at some distance from the village at a bend of the river Welland, is a good specimen of early Norm. work. It contains a 17th-cent. monument, with effigies of Robert Dale and his wife.

Hitherto the Rly. has passed through the valley of the Welland, and has crossed and re-crossed the river. At Ketton it bends away into central Rutland. The country, with low hills and little wood, is not very attractive; and there is nothing which calls for notice, until

6 m. Luffenham (Junct. Stat.), the L. and N. W. Rly. from Seaton to Stamford here joins the Midland Rly. The village of **South Luffenham** lies  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S. of the Stat. **North Luffenham** is about the same distance N.W. Both have ancient churches, that of the latter, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, has some old stained glass, a monument to a member of the Digby family (d. 1582), and a brass to Archdeacon Johnson, the founder of Uppingham and Oakham Schools, whilst that of the former village has some Norm. and E. E. arches in the nave.

Another mile N.W. is the village of **Edith Weston**, where was a small alien priory attached to the Benedictine house of St. George at Banquerville in Normandy. It afterwards passed to the Carthusians of Coventry. The *Church* of St. Mary has a good Dec. spire. The chancel arch is Trans.-Norm., and should be compared with the work of the hall at Oakham. The place is named from Eadgyth or Editha, wife of the Confessor and sister of Harold, who, according to the Domesday Book, had much property in this part of England.

1 m. N. **Normanton Park** (Lord Ancaster) is entered, well wooded, and stretching along a range of higher ground. **Normanton** has been for some generations in the hands of the Heathcotes, and the then baronet was created Baron Aveland in 1856. He had been for

thirty-six years a Member of Parliament. The house is entirely modern, and dates, for the most part, from the beginning of the present century. There are a few pictures, but of no great importance. A stream, which flows through the park, joins the River Gwash at its northern extremity. The rare *Gentiana autumnalis* occurs here. The small *Church* of St. Matthew is situated in the park.

2 m. S. of Luffenham Stat. is **Barrowden**, formerly a place of some importance with a market, but long since discontinued. It stands on the N. side of the river Welland and  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. from Wakerley Stat. (see Section I., *Northhants*, Rte. 11). The *Church* of St. Peter has E. E. portions with a Perp. tower and spire (rebuilt). It contains a monument to Rolandus Durant (d. 1588), and a brass to Rowlandus Digby (d. 1546), a former rector. There is also a "bench end" memorial to the same rector, inscribed "Rolandus Digby Rector de Bar." The remains of a fine old Jacobean pulpit have been converted into a book rest for two old "chained" books. A hagioscope pierces the wall in the chantry of St. Mary, and the staircase to the rood-loft still exists.

Proceeding from Luffenham the Rly. passes on the l., very near the line, the little churches of **Pilton** and of **Wing**, neither of interest. At the latter place is a maze cut in the grass on the roadside, similar to the one at Alkborough, in Lincolnshire. It is well looked after and is quite perfect. On the rt. of the line is the village of **Lyndon**. In the wall of the churchyard of the *Church* of St. Martin is inserted a head-stone for William Whiston, the "theologian" and man of science, who died at Lyndon Hall in 1752, aged 84. His daughter had married a Mr. Barker, at that time the



owner of the hall. It is now the property of E. N. Conant, Esq.

10 m. Manton (Junct. Stat. with the main line of the Midland Rly. from the S.). The village with the little *Church* of St. Mary lies E. of the Stat. on an eminence. At **Mar-tinsthorpe**, about 1 m. W., there is a desecrated chapel, unroofed for many years.

1½ m. S.W. of Manton is **Preston**, where the *Church* of St. Peter and St. Paul stands high, and is a good landmark. It has a massive tower and spire. The tower buttresses are set on at the angles. The Dec. spire is of varied stone—the lower part dark, the centre light with a single dark band, the top darker. There are good spire lights. Within, the main arcade is Norm. on the N. side, with round piers and arches. On the S. it is E. E., though the arches are still round-headed, and the capitals plain and hollowed. The chancel retains traces of Norm. windows, but was much altered in E. E. and Dec. times. A canopied niche, on the S. side below the plain sedile, may perhaps have served as an Easter sepulchre. The aisles are carried E. of the chancel arch, and round-headed arches with nail-head ornament open to them from the chancel, N. and S. The font is E. E. The church has been restored, and the walls are scraped and bare after the bad modern fashion; but it is an interesting building, well cared for. There is some modern stained glass.

13¾ m. \***OAKHAM** (Stat.), the principal town of Rutland, small and compact, with its church and castle. These and a mediæval house in the principal street, the Butter Cross, the old Grammar School, and St. John's Chapel, are the chief objects of interest in Oakham, which is by no means a place of bustle or

of movement, though the county town. Its importance, however, is gradually increasing, and it has become one of the chief hunting centres of the midlands, being the headquarters of the Cottesmore Hunt.

The cruciform *Church* of All Saints, with its noble tower and spire, was restored in 1858, under *Sir G. G. Scott, R.A.* It consists of W. tower, nave with N. and S. aisles, transept with double aisles, and chancel with N. and S. aisles, nearly of equal breadth. The building is "the work of several different periods, from the end of the 12th to the beginning of the 16th cents. Its earliest feature is the inner doorway of the porch, which is of the end of the 12th cent. The next in date are the interior of the porch itself, and the lower parts of the S. wall, with a blank recess or window on the E. side of the S. transept. These are of the first half of the 13th cent. Then come the corresponding parts of the N. aisle, with the single pillars in both transepts. The chancel arch and some minor portions are of the beginning of the 14th cent. The tower, with perhaps the pillars and arches of the same, and some other portions, are of the latter part of the same century; while the chancel, and the clere-story, and probably the N. chancel aisle, are of the 15th, and the S. chancel aisle of the 16th cent. Various, however, as are the dates of these different portions of the church, they unite in forming a symmetrical and harmonious whole, having generally the aspect of a church of the 15th cent."—*Sir G. G. Scott, R.A.* On the exterior of the church, remark the fine composition of the W. front of the tower, in which the portal is united with the great window above. Over the window are three niches, retaining the figures of Our Lord and two saints. The narrow stages of the

tower are marked by set-offs running across the whole front. The corbel tables throughout are curious, with grotesque figures. The buttresses are excellent; and a striking feature is the late Dec. battlement of the S. porch, with its beautiful central ornament—a crucifix within rich floriation. In the interior of the church, the main arcade should be noticed. Its capitals are much enriched with grotesques, animals, leafage, the emblems of the Evangelists, and angel heads with wings. The E. window of the chancel is modern, and of geometrical character. A fine alabaster reredos, the gift of C. K. Morris, Esq., was set up in 1898. The roofs of chancel and S. aisle are also modern. That of the N. chancel aisle (oak panelled) is ancient. The font is a round bowl, with an interlacing arcade, but placed on a base of later date and character. The stained glass windows in the chancel are modern. In the N. chancel aisle is a flat altar-tomb, with quatrefoils in sunk square panels; and in each quatrefoil the figure of a bell. There is no inscription; and the tomb has not been appropriated. The church belonged to the abbey of Westminster from (at least) the beginning of the reign of Henry III. until the dissolution of the abbey. Various benefactors, however, may have assisted in the building of its different parts; and the spire is said to have been erected by one of the Flores, a family once of great importance in Oakham.

The *Castle* adjoins the churchyard on the E. The dykes and fosses of two great courts are conspicuous; but all masonry has disappeared, with the exception of a remarkable *hall* of the late Norm. (Trans.) period, and some fragments of wall surrounding the inner court. No other example of such an isolated Norm. hall remains in this country, although many (but of earlier date)

occur in great keep towers, as at Rochester, Richmond, Hedingham, Newcastle, and elsewhere.

There is no record of a castle at Oakham until the reign of Henry II., when the manor was granted to Walcheline de Ferrars, who became Baron of Oakham. The foundation of the castle is generally assigned to him, and the peculiar custom of the manor, by which a horseshoe is claimed from every baron who passes for the first time through the lordship, has been thought to indicate an early connection with the house of Ferrars, the shield of which was “semée of horseshoes.” But Oakham was only connected with the Ferrars during the lives of Walcheline and of his son Hugh. Castle and manor afterwards passed through various hands. Henry III. in 1251 gave them to his brother Richard of Cornwall. Edward II. granted them to Edmund of Woodstock. The De Bohun Earls of Northampton held the castle for some time; and the well-known Robert de Vere, Earl of Oxford, the favourite of Richard II., obtained manor and castle for his life. They were bestowed by Henry VIII. on Cromwell, Earl of Essex. They passed afterwards to Charles, 2nd Duke of Buckingham; and so to the Earl of Nottingham, ancestor of the Earls of Winchelsea, the present possessors.

The castle of Oakham was the principal, if not the only fortress in the county of Rutland. Whether the earthworks of the inner court (in which stands the hall) are those of an earlier stronghold, British or Roman, is not perhaps certain; but no early remains have been found here, and no ancient road passed in this direction. At present, the ground-plan shows an outer court toward the north, a long parallelogram, surrounded by a deep trench (there are at present no traces of a wall), which is broader on the side



between this and the inner court. This inner court is of less size, and of irregular shape, somewhat circular. The court of it is sunk within the enclosing mound and wall. The mound becomes higher toward the S.E. angle, as if for the foundation of a tower. The hall stands alone toward the S. side of the court, is built E. and W., and is of the latter part of the 12th cent., showing distinct transition from Norm. to E. E. "It measures 65 ft. by 43 ft., and is divided by two rows of pillars and arches, thus cutting off two aisles which are lean-to's. The arches rise from circular pillars (three on either side), with highly enriched capitals. There are no responds, the arches at the ends springing from corbels. The principal entrance was originally at the E. end of the S. side, and there are also two low segmental-headed doors at the E. end, and another door at the N.W., which have all communicated with the offices, as may be seen by the foundations yet remaining."—*T. Hudson Turner*, 'Dom. Archt.' There are four windows N. and S., and one in the E. end gable. These are all varied in detail, externally double lancets, and internally round-headed; but the openings for light are square, the upper part of the lancet being left solid, and set with ornament. The angles of the jambs are filled in with dog-tooth. The principal doorway is of similar character, with banded shafts and dog-tooth. The pillars of the interior arcade have bases with foot ornaments and mouldings, which are very E. E. The capitals are rich and Corinthian, much varied. "Their whole character is very similar to those at Canterbury and Oxford cathedrals; but more so to some foreign examples, as at Soissons and Blois." On the capitals, at the springing of the arches, are human figures and animals, playing on musical instru-

ments. In the aisles are human heads. The corbels carrying the outer arches are very fine, and unusual in design. "The one nearest the entrance door at the E. end appears to be what is heraldically called a 'cat-a-mountain,' and is supported by the heads of a king and queen, evidently those of Henry II. and his queen, Eleanor of Guienne." All these corbels are noticeable. The roof was partly erected by Charles, 2nd Duke of Buckingham, and is partly modern. The spring stones of the gables on the N. side are supported by two heads, and on the crests are large figures; that E. being a figure in a long surcoat, mounted on an animal; that W. being a much shattered sagittary.

On the walls of this remarkable hall are disposed more than 100 horseshoes, evidences of the ancient "custom" of the manor, which has been already mentioned. They are of various sizes and forms, some, however, are only zinc painted and gilded. The earliest now here (except that of Queen Elizabeth) dates from 1694, and was contributed by Baptist, Earl of Gainsborough. Five Earls and Marquises of Exeter also are represented; and at one end of the hall are the gilt and crowned horseshoes of Queen Elizabeth, of "George, Prince Regent," of Queen Victoria, of the Prince and Princess of Wales, and of the Duke of Connaught. The custom undoubtedly represents some early privilege, probably a grant of "toll" on every horse passing through the town (as was the case at Dover); but the origin cannot be traced with certainty. The assizes, as well as the quarter sessions, are held in the hall.

The area of the court in which the hall stands is covered with foundations, and there is a well in it. There are some large ash trees. (For all that is known of

the early history of Oakham castle and hall, see a paper by the Rev. C. H. Hartshorne, in the 'Archæological Journal,' vol. v.)

In the principal street, on the same side as the "Crown Inn," is an ancient house, known as *Flore's House*. It was originally E. E. of the 13th cent., but was greatly altered in the 15th. In the original plan a hall occupied the centre, with a wing at each end projecting backward, but in front in a line with the hall. The principal doorway, good E. E., remains: and in the passage, which seems to have led straight through to the back of the house, is a drain, projecting from the wall, and ornamented. "The slab is sunk on all four sides to the centre, where there is a human head in relief, and under it four holes for carrying off the water." At the point of the arch is a staple for suspending something (a chained dish or a towel). Such drains were probably designed for the washing of the guests' hands before they entered the hall. The E. wing of the house now projects much in front, and in it is a square double window of the 15th cent. Roger Flore, to whom the house is assigned by local tradition, died about 1483; and may have altered the older building. He was a merchant, and a great benefactor to Oakham.

In the market-place is the Butter Cross and the stocks, and near to them is the modern building of the *Grammar School*. This school, like that at Uppingham (see Rte. 2), was founded in the reign of Elizabeth by Robert Johnson, Archdeacon of Leicester and vicar of N. Luffenham. The arrangements were at first the same as at Uppingham; and the modern system is the same in both schools, but under a new scheme, and with due application of the large funds. The Exhibitions of Oakham School have, however, of late years

diminished through agricultural depression, and are now under 600*l.* per annum. The old school-house, built in the time of Queen Elizabeth and rebuilt during the reign of George I., is in the churchyard, and has on one side the inscription, "Schola Latina, Græca, et Hebraica 1584. Refecta 1723"; with texts in the three languages. On the outskirts of the town is the *Hospital of St. John*, founded about 1390, by William Dalby, a merchant of Exton. The small chapel is of this date, with Perp. windows.

Jeffry Hudson, dwarf of the Queen Henrietta Maria, who figures in Scott's 'Peveril of the Peak,' and is called by Fuller ('Worthies') "the least man of the least county in England," was born in this parish, where "his father was a very proper man, broad-shouldered and chested, though his son never arrived at a full ell in stature." His father "presented him at Burley-on-the-Hill to the Duchess of Buckingham, being then nine years of age, and scarce a foot and a half in height, as I am informed" (continues Fuller) "by credible persons then and there present and still alive. Instantly Jeffry was heightened (not in stature but in condition) from one degree above rags into silk and satin, and two tall men to attend him." He afterwards made his first appearance at court "in a cold baked pie," went with the Queen to France in 1644, shot Mr. Crofts in a duel, returned at the Restoration, was imprisoned on suspicion of being concerned in the Popish plot, and died 1682. He appears in attendance on the Queen in a picture by Van Dyck, belonging to the Earl of Portarlington.

Titus Oates was also born at Oakham.

*Catmose* is the seat of the Rt. Hon. Gerard Noel.

*Oakham Lodge* (R. Tryon, Esq.) is at the E. end of the town.



2 m. S.W. from Oakham is **Braunston**, lying in a valley near Leighfield Forest. The *Church* of All Saints has a fine Norm. doorway in the S. porch, and *brasses* of the 16th and 17th centuries to members of the Cheseldyne family.

A stone was discovered some years ago, and set up at the W. end of the church, on which is a life-sized head and bust of a female, and at least as early as Saxon times. Fragments of British pottery are often turned up by the plough at Flit-teris, about 1 m. off, on the highest point in the county, where traces of an ancient camp still exist.

To the S.E. of Braunston is **Brooke**. The *Church* of St. Peter is Norm., excepting the tracery inserted in some of the windows, and contains some good Jacobean woodwork. In the chancel is a monument to the Noel family (d. 1619). There was formerly a priory here.

1½ m. S.E. of Oakham is **Egleton**, where the porch and chancel arch of the *Church* of St. Edmund are Norm.

1½ m. further E. is **Upper Hambleton**. Here the *Church* of St. Peter, which is E. E., with a Perp. clerestory, contains 18th-cent. monuments to the Hippisley family.

About 1 m. S. is **Middle Hambleton**, where the *Hall* is an excellent example of a small Jacobean manor-house. It is now a farm-house.

The road from Oakham to Melton Mowbray passes N.W. through what is known as the *Vale of Catmose*, although travellers accustomed to a more hilly region will hardly recognise the valley. For the etymology of the name Camden suggests "*Coet maes*" (Brit.), a "woody plain"; but this explanation is at least doubtful. This is the best and richest part of Rutland.

"Bring forth that British vale, and be it  
ne'er so rare,  
But Catmus with that vale for richness  
may compare,"

are the words of Drayton ('*Polyolbion*'); and the land maintains its old reputation. The country is hardly picturesque. At 1 m. is the village of **Barleythorpe**. *Barleythorpe Hall*, a modern Elizabethan mansion, belongs to the Earl of Lonsdale.

1 m. further is **Langham**, a straggling village of the Northamptonshire type, with a very fine *Church* of St. Peter and St. Paul, restored, the nave under *Bodley and Garner*, the chancel by *Christian*. The plan shows a broad nave and aisles, which end at the chancel arch, a S. transeptal chapel, a deep chancel, of the same width as the nave, and a W. tower. There was a N. transept, pulled down in the last cent. Like Oakham, this church at Langham shows the work of different periods, but in the same way the chief impression is that of a 15th-cent. building, and there is so much general resemblance that it is hardly possible to doubt that the same designers were at work on both churches. The earliest portions are E. E. An E. E. lancet remains on the N. side of the chancel, though the other windows are Perp. insertions. The chancel roof is modern. The main arcade dates from the second half of the 13th cent., and resembles the piers of the transepts at Oakham. There are well-sculptured heads at the terminations of the arch mouldings. The clerestory is somewhat later. The E. and W. windows of the N. aisle are good curvilinear, and on the N. side of the E. window is a curious bracket, displaying a figure crouching with his elbows on his knees, holding the mouth open with the hands and projecting the tongue. In the S. aisle the windows are all

Perp., as is the font. The S. transept, originally E. E., has been much altered in Perp. times. In the S. wall is an E. E. trefoil-headed piscina, and there is a large Perp. window S. of it. On the floor in the E. aisle of the transept is a curious incised slab for John Dickenson (d. 1535) and wife. He wears a merchant's gown with furred collar and sleeves; a long, stocking-shaped purse is fastened round the lady's waist, and hangs low in front. The open nave roof (Perp.) is old and good. The modern seats are plain, but well arranged, and the whole effect of the interior is excellent. On the exterior, remark the E. E. tower, with a spire of later date. The very fine belfry windows are enriched with dog-tooth. Under the parapet of the clerestory are good Perp. gargoyles, and, generally, the parapets with their corbel tables are Perp. The great Perp. window of the S. transept has a cornice with curious figures in the gable, which rises at the point into a crucifix, as at Oakham, but here the figure is gone.

There is a belief, not apparently founded on existing evidence, that the church was rebuilt by Simon of Langham, Archbishop of Canterbury (A.D. 1366-1368). It is said that he was born here, and that, following the example of many prelates of his day, he "rebuilt" the church of his birthplace. This can only mean that he made the Perp. changes in the church, and perhaps founded a chantry for himself and parents in the S. transept. The insertion of the large Perp. window there looks as if it were designed to light some special altar or relic shrine. Langham had been Bishop of Ely, Treasurer of England, and Lord Chancellor, before his elevation to the Primacy.

Proceeding by rail, and leaving Burley-on-the-Hill on the rt., and skirting for a short time the Melton and Oakham canal, at

**16 $\frac{3}{4}$  m. Ashwell (Stat.).** The village lies to the E. of the line. The *Church* of St. Mary (restored) has Dec. and Perp. portions, and the E. window is Dec. curvilinear. Three monuments deserve attention. One, of wood, is the cross-legged effigy of an unknown knight, temp. Henry III., another is the effigy of a priest in eucharistic vestments. The third has the figures of John Vernam, circ. 1479, and Rose his wife. Midway between Oakham and Ashwell are the kennels of the Cottesmore Hunt. *Ashwell Hall* (Colonel F. G. Blair) is a fine modern mansion, in Elizabethan style.

**19 m. Whissendine (Stat.).** The village lies  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m. S., in a country more broken and varied than that through which the Rly. passes, and commanding wide views over Leicestershire. The Rly. next crosses the Leicestershire border, and, passing *Saxby* (Stat.), reaches

**25 m. Melton Mowbray (Stat.).**  
(See *H.Bk. for Leicestershire*.)

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### *The Route by Road.*

The road from Stamford is over undulating country through Empingham ( $5\frac{1}{2}$  m.) and Whitwell (7 m.), and then down Barnsdale Hill to Oakham ( $11\frac{1}{2}$  m.). Continuing through the town past the Rly. Stat. to Langham ( $13\frac{1}{4}$  m.) it quits the county and proceeds through Burton Lazars (17 m.) to Melton Mowbray ( $18\frac{3}{4}$  m.).



## ROUTE 2.

## STAMFORD TO ROCKINGHAM (UPPINGHAM)

(LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RLY. 13 $\frac{3}{4}$  m.)

Rail.	Stations.
	Stamford.
3 $\frac{1}{4}$ m.	Ketton.
6 m.	Luffenham.
7 $\frac{1}{2}$ m.	Morcott.
9 $\frac{3}{4}$ m.	Seaton.
	4 m. Uppingham.
13 $\frac{3}{4}$ m.	Rockingham.

Proceeding from **Stamford St.** Martin's Stat. along the same line as in Rte. 1 as far as Luffenham Stat., the Rly. turns off in a S.W. direction to

7 $\frac{1}{2}$  m. **Morcott** (Stat.), a large straggling village, containing many old houses, one or two of which may be of the 17th, but most of the 18th cent. The *Church* of St. Mary has a late Norm. nave of two bays, with circular piers and enriched capitals, all different. The N. arcade is earlier than that on the S. side; and the pointed chancel arch, with nail-head, seems later still. The chancel, at first Norm., was nearly rebuilt in Perp. times. Under a window in the S. aisle is a broad, low tomb-recess of Dec. character, within which is a plain altar-tomb, with incised cross and inscription, "Williwm de Overtoun gist ici, Dieu de salme eyt merci. Amen." The W. tower arch is early Norm., with rudely-sculptured capitals, one of which represents twisted serpents. The W. doorway has a pointed arch, with two orders of shafts, and was altered when a Dec. window was inserted above it. There are round-headed Norm. doors in S. aisle and chancel.

**Glaston** is 2 m. W. of Morcott Stat. on the Uppingham road. The *Church* of St. Andrew is a handsome edifice. The nave arcade is Trans.-Norm., with octagonal piers and pointed arches. The tower is central, and perhaps E. E. The chancel, long and well developed, is almost modern, and of Dec. character. The windows of the chancel, and some of those in the aisles, are square-headed.

In the village was formerly a house of some importance, built towards the middle of the 17th cent. by one of the Sherards, Earls of Harborough.

1 m. S.W. is **Bisbrooke**, where the church is modern. *Bisbrooke Hall* is the property of Victoria, Lady Carbery.

9 $\frac{3}{4}$  m. **Seaton** (Junct. Stat. Here the line from Rugby to Peterborough branches off—see Section I., *Northants*, Rte. 11—and a short branch line to Uppingham, see *post*). The *Church* of All Hallows (restored in 1875) has a good E. E. chancel with a later tower and spire. The chancel arch, with very handsomely carved pillars, and the arcades in the nave are Norm.

A short branch line from Seaton Stat. proceeds in a westerly direction to

4 m. **UPPINGHAM** (Stat.), although nominally a place of less importance than Oakham, has far

more life, owing to the Grammar School, which was raised from mediocrity to a state of great excellence by the late headmaster, the Rev. E. Thring. The town consists of one long street, with a market-place opening from it, at one side of which is the church. The marked features of Uppingham, however, are the modern school-buildings, and the thirteen boarding-houses of the school, designed by *G. E. Street, R.A.*, and by *T. G. Jackson, R.A.* Some of these are on the outskirts of the town, and are sufficiently conspicuous. The large building at the W. end of Uppingham is appropriated to the Lower School, for boys under thirteen.

Uppingham does not appear in Domesday Book, and the place is briefly and disparagingly mentioned by Leland and Camden. It seems to have been famous for trencher-making, since an "Uppingham trencher" is a saying still known in the county. The foundation of such prosperity as the place now enjoys was laid by the foundation of the Free or Grammar School, in 1584, by Robert Johnson, Archdeacon of Leicester, who also founded the school at Oakham (see Rte. 1). The original plan was liberal, and provided for the sending of scholars to the Universities. Much land was attached to these schools, but the income thence derived is now much reduced. Uppingham School is under the direction of trustees; and, under the present head-master, the Rev. E. C. Selwyn, it enjoys very considerable distinction. It is one of the few schools which have produced an Archbishop of Canterbury (Manners-Sutton) in the present century. The staff consists of head-master and 30 assistant masters (26 of whom are graduates of Oxford or Cambridge), besides 5 music masters. The two schools (upper

and lower) contain at present (1900) about 470 boys. These are distributed in the various school-houses, each under the superintendence of a master. Each boy has a separate small study, and the long airy dormitories are divided into cubicles. Three exhibitions, of the value respectively of 60*l.*, 50*l.*, and 40*l.*, are open every year, "tenable at some University, or other place of learned, scientific, or professional education." There are also sixteen exhibitions at Cambridge (St. John's, Clare, Emmanuel, and Sidney Sussex—four at each college) of about 21*l.* each, "to which scholars from Uppingham and Oakham have the preference." A Cropper scholarship of 24*l.* tenable *at the school* for two years, is assigned every year; and there are also six scholarships for boys under fourteen, two of 70*l.*, two of 50*l.*, and two of 30*l.* a year, tenable *at the school*, and assigned annually in April. With these advantages, with a system embracing all modern requirements, and with a most energetic direction, it is not surprising that Uppingham should have reached its present distinction.

The group of *school buildings*, designed by *G. E. Street, R.A.*, and including a chapel, form two sides of an eastern quadrangle. The principal schoolroom is 88 ft. by 30 ft., and is chiefly lighted by a large window on the S. side, with double shafts. Under the cornices are inscribed the names of such old pupils as have distinguished themselves at the Universities, or elsewhere. The chapel has attached to it a circular campanile with three bells. Within, it is very striking. The general character is 1st (Geometrical) Decorated. The E. window is filled with stained glass by *Clayton and Bell*, "First-fruits from old boys, 1870." Other windows are memorials; and under those on the N. side is a series of sunk



panels in alabaster for inscriptions recording old scholars of Uppingham who have died after attaining eminence or distinction. In the second bay from the E. are rich brackets, with shafts carrying figures of the Evangelists—two on either side. At the W. end is a rose-window, with gallery below. The roof is open and good. The whole (chapel and school building) is in the local stone (Morcott and Clips-ham) belonging to the same oolite as the Ketton stone (Rte. 1).

Beyond the arcade is a Galilee memorial chapel (1891), containing the statue of *Edward Thring*, headmaster 1853–1887, by *T. Brock, R.A.* This is a very fine work. There is in the transept a beautiful medallion in alabaster, also by *T. Brock*, of *Rev. R. Hodgkinson*, late master of the Lower School; another medallion of *Rev. R. Witts*, who gave the first thousand pounds to the building of the chapel, and a brass in memory of *Col. Haughton*, of the Indian Army. The organ front of carved oak is in memory of the late *Mrs. Selwyn*; also the oaken prayer desks. The reredos by *Salviati* has three mosaic panels containing scenes from the boyhood of Christ.

On the other side W. of the schoolroom is the school-yard, containing on the S. the School House and Tercentenary Class Rooms, opened 1890; on the W. side the dormitories and studies of the School House, and on the N. fronting the High Street the Victoria Building, with entrance gate under the Tower, containing a Museum and Chemical Laboratory and large Lecture Room with tiers of seats. The view from the tower is very extensive. Over the gateway outside is a statue of the founder, by *G. Frampton, A.R.A.* The quadrangle is by *T. G. Jackson, R.A.* The Victoria Building was opened, 1897, by H.R.H. the Duchess of

Albany, and is built also of Morcott and Ketton stone.

After the school, the only object of interest in Uppingham is the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, which was almost rebuilt in 1877. Leland described the old church as "very meane"; and the present building retains little more than the main arcade, with the tower and spire. Uppingham can now boast of a very good church, with much enrichment of sculpture and general decoration. The arcade is early Dec., the tower late Dec., and the spire has good spire lights. Some very graceful original painting has been uncovered (and remains) on the arches of the main arcade. The principal pattern is flowing, in red, and on the soffites are red stars. In the chancel, which is entirely modern, the carved capitals, designed from natural leafage, deserve notice. The reredos is of alabaster, set with agates. The font is carved from a large solid block of serpentine, and is grand, though a little sombre. The pulpit is a framework with carved panels of the 17th cent., and a good example of that period. It has a special interest from the fact that *Jeremy Taylor* may have often preached from it. The Rectory of Uppingham was given to Taylor by Archbishop Laud, to whom he had been chaplain. He was rector here at the outbreak of the Civil War; but was so marked a champion of the King and of the Church that his living was speedily sequestrated. King Charles then made Taylor one of his chaplains, and he never returned to Uppingham.

At the E. end of the churchyard is the old schoolhouse, now the studio of the school, of precisely the same character as that at Oakham. Both date apparently from the beginning of the reign of Charles I. This at Uppingham has over the door an inscription in

Hebrew, Greek, and Latin, "Train up a child in the way he should go." "Suffer the little children to come unto Me." "Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth." The contrast between this humble building and new "group" by Street and Jackson is sufficiently striking.

Opposite the W. side of the churchyard are the carpentry and engineering shops of the school, opened in 1897 on the present site. Some of the music practice rooms adjoin them. Hence the name "Scale Hall," where scales are frequently heard.

The country W. of Uppingham was included within the bounds of the ancient forest of Leafield or Lyfield, which occupied the greater part of the hundreds of Oakham and Martinsley. Its origin is uncertain, but some parts were afforested in the reign of John. The office of chief forester was attached to the manor of Leigh, which is nearly in the centre of the old forest district, and seems to have given name to it. The southern portion (S. of Uppingham) was known as Beaumont Chase. The western boundary of the forest was almost throughout conterminous with that of the county. There are still some patches of ancient wood about Wardley and Belton, small villages N.W. of Uppingham (the churches are without interest), but the country is hardly attractive.

1 m. N. of Uppingham is **Ayston**. The *Church* of St. Mary is a Perp. edifice. In the churchyard are two mutilated effigies, so much defaced that it is difficult to assign a date to them.

Another mile N. is **Ridlington**, a village on high ground, with extensive view of the Chater Valley. In the *Church* of St. Mary and St. Andrew a 16th-cent. monument for

Sir John Harington and his wife, also several 17th and 18th cent. memorials of the Cheselden family; in the S. aisle is a Norm. tympanum. In the fields W. of the church may be traced the lines of an ancient encampment.

2½ m. W. of Uppingham is **Wardley**, where the small *Church* of St. Botolph, chiefly E. E. and Perp. with Norm. door, contains memorials of the Fluyder family.

**Belton**, standing high above the Eye brook, is 1½ m. N.W. of Wardley. The *Church* of St. Peter (restored in 1898) is a Perp. building with Norm. arcade, and contains an alabaster slab, with coats-of-arms belonging to the original monument, to Thomas Haslewood (d. 1559) and his wife. The font is E. E. There are other interesting monuments to the Roberts family.

The high road from Uppingham to Rockingham (5 m. S.) passes over high ground, and commands some really fine views to the S. and W. At 1½ m. a by-road turns off rt. to **Stoke Dry**. The place is noticeable as (in Camden's words) "the ancient home of the famous and ancient family of the Digbys," who were settled here in the middle of the 15th cent. At an earlier period the manor had been held by the house of Morewood. Of the manor-house nothing remains. It stood well, on high ground, looking over a much tossed, wooded country beyond the Leicester border, which is here close at hand, and is marked by the course of the little River Eye. The *Church* of St. Andrew is placed on a high bank, nearly opposite the site of the manor-house, with a deep country road between. The church, originally Norm., was almost entirely rebuilt in the E. E. and early Dec. periods. The N. arcade is E. E., and the piers are graceful,



with four attached shafts. The S. arcade is very early Dec. with the nail-head in the capitals, and plain round piers. The S. arcade, later than the N., is much wider, and an arch at the E. end, now blocked, opened to an early Dec. chapel, now serving as a vestry. The stone used in the arches is of two colours, whitish and dark brown. The chancel arch is very noticeable, since it is a mixture of Dec. work and Norm. A much enriched Norm. shaft remains N. and S., covered with curious and very rude carving of men and animals. On the N. side the capital remains, and shows a winged figure holding a book and wearing what may be alb and chasuble. On either side are monsters. A lofty screen, with overhanging roodloft, crosses the chancel arch, but the tracery of the arch openings has been broken away. In the E. wall of the chancel are—N. a large ambry, and S. a piscina blocked by a great Digby monument. This is the tomb of Kenelm Digby, Esq. (d. 1590), and of Anne his wife. The two effigies are in alabaster. He is in armour, bare-headed, and holds in one hand something (concealed) which is suspended from his neck by a large double chain. She holds a book in her clasped hands. The cushions for the heads have been painted and gilt. Round the base are figures of weepers, wearing the great ruff of the later years of Elizabeth. The eldest son, with a double chain like his father's, supports a shield with the Digby arms (a fleur-de-lys) and motto "Nul que ung"—"None but one." At one end are the arms of Digby and Cope, impaled. (The whole treatment of this fine tomb precisely resembles one in the chancel of Rockingham Church for Edward Watson and his wife, who was a daughter of this Kenelm Digby, see *Northants*, Rte. 11.) In the S. chapel (now the vestry) is a

tomb with a much defaced effigy, with the fleur-de-lys on his enormous shield. It formerly had the following inscription: "Hic jacet Everardus Digbi Miles qui obiit undecimo die Aprilis Anno Domini M.CCCCXLIº ejus anime propitiatur Deus. Amen."—('The History and Antiquities of the County of Rutland,' By James Wright. Printed 1684.) There is an early Dec. window in this chapel, S. The E. window, like that of the chancel, is late Dec. On the wall are traces of painting.—King Edmund martyred by the Danes, and other subjects, much obscured. In the S. aisle of the nave is the altar-tomb of Jacquetta Digby (d. 1496). The top of the tomb is a large slab of English alabaster, with incised figure and inscriptions. She wears a close head-dress, and long robe, with chain and pomander-box. During the restoration of the church in 1898 some interesting fresco paintings were discovered in the nave.

The Digbys settled at Stoke Dry early in the 15th cent., and the place long remained their chief possession. It was the home of Sir Everard Digby, famous for his share in the Gunpowder Plot, and for his death in consequence. The Digbys had maintained the "old profession," and the father of Sir Everard, "a person of great worth and learning," was the author of some curious treatises. Sir Everard himself suffered the death of a traitor, "at the W. end of St. Paul's Church in London," January 30th, 1606. His wife was Mary, daughter and sole heiress of William Mulsho of Gotherst in Buckinghamshire, where their more famous son, Sir Kenelm, was born in 1603. Sir Kenelm succeeded to his father's estates, which (by virtue of an old settlement) could not be alienated as a result of Sir Everard's treason: but he had little connection with Stoke Dry beyond that of ownership.

Returning from Stoke Dry to the main road, and immediately crossing it, a descent is made to the village of Lyddington. The church tower rises in front, surrounded by trees, and the view is pleasant. On the heights above and beyond the Welland, here the boundary of Rutland, the villages of Gretton and Harringworth are seen, each gathered round its church.

Lyddington is worth visiting for the sake of the church, and of a picturesque Bede-house or hospital, formed by the 3rd Lord Burghley (1st Earl of Exeter) from portions of a manor-place once belonging to the bishops of Lincoln. The manor was in their hands from a period before the removal of the see from Dorchester to Lincoln, until the reign of Edward VI., when it was resigned to the king, who granted it to Gregory, Lord Cromwell. It afterwards came to the 2nd Lord Burghley. The long, scattered village of Lyddington contains some houses which may perhaps be of the 17th cent.; but the lingering of old fashions, and the good stone near at hand, make it difficult to assign a positive date to them. The bede-house groups picturesquely with the church, and an arch connected with the former opens to the churchyard.

The fine *Church* of St. Andrew is late Dec. (chancel) and Perp. (nave and aisles); but there is perhaps no great interval between them. The nave arches are lofty and light, carried on slender piers with attached shafts. There are heads at the intersections, worth notice, as are the corbels from which the timbers of the aisle roofs spring. The aisle windows are transomed, with three lights below and three above. The roofs are original, somewhat rough, but good. That of the nave has a battlemented cornice. The long chancel has fine

Dec. (flowing) windows. The altar is not placed against the E. wall, but is surrounded by a rail, on one side of which is the date 1635. The arrangement of that period is accordingly preserved. On the chancel floor is the *brass* of a civilian and wife, temp. Edward IV. A plate has been inserted between the children, who figure below, for a later worthy, one Edward Watson, "*Justiciæ custor, arteque causidicus.*" Another *brass*, with a good example of the "butterfly" head-dress, is for the wife of Robert Hardy (d. 1486). The chancel screen remains. The font is square, with a good Jacobean cover. The W. tower is Dec., and an exterior addition (Perp.) has been made to the W. door.

The *Bede-house* is on the W. side of the churchyard, and an oriel and three very good windows of early Perp. character look into the yard. These are the windows of the hall. The chapel projects at a rt. angle with the hall, on the W. The hall chimney is carried up in the middle, and a gable on either side has a window. Below (E.), a lean-to extends, into which the doors of the under rooms open. One of these has a large fireplace. The whole seems of one date, and is in fact the larger portion of a manor-house, built by a bishop of Lincoln toward the end of the 14th cent. The hall was, however, ceiled and decorated, apparently by Bishop Longlands (1521-1547). The ceiling is in flat panels, with a cornice of open carved work resembling fan-tracery, unusual and striking. In the windows are fragments of stained glass, with the red rose crowned, small quarrels with roses and leaves, and the mottoes "*Dñs exaltacio mea*"—"Delectare in Dño." In the hall is a Common Prayer-book containing a MS. prayer for the hospital, for the "good Lord Burghley," his family, and



descendants. The Bible which accompanies it has the following entry—"In the year 1816, there was a great snow for five hours on the 12th of May, and haile all the remaines of the day. Witness, John Robert, Warden." The establishment is for a warden, twelve poor men, and two women.

The ancient manor-house and its demesne were surrounded by a wall which enclosed a considerable space, including in the line what is now a barn, with massive buttresses. In the field E. of the churchyard are mounds and ridges, indicating fish-ponds, and a formal "plaisance."

Continuing along the main road at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  m. is Caldecot, close to Rockingham Stat. The Church of St. John contains a curious E. E. font, square, with chamfered edges, and unusual ornament. Here the Eye brook flows into the Welland and the counties of Leicester, Rutland, and Northampton meet.

From Seaton the Rly. proceeds along the valley of the Welland, and after passing the hamlet of Thorpe-by-Water, reaches

$13\frac{3}{4}$  m. Rockingham (Stat.). See *Northants*, Rte. 11.

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### *The Route by Road.*

The road to Rockingham, *viâ* Uppingham, passes through Tinwell ( $1\frac{3}{4}$  m.) and Ketton ( $3\frac{3}{4}$  m.); thence it proceeds through South Luffenham ( $6\frac{3}{4}$  m.) to Morcott (8 m.), where the road turns off to the rt. through Glaston (10 m.) to Uppingham (12 m.). From here the main road S. gradually descends to Caldecot ( $16\frac{1}{4}$  m.), then crossing the L. & N. W. Rly. at Rockingham Stat., and shortly afterwards the river Welland; there is a steep hill to Rockingham ( $17\frac{1}{2}$  m.).

## ROUTE 3.

### OAKHAM TO CLIPSHAM.

(ROAD.  $9\frac{1}{2}$  m.)

The road from Oakham to Clippingham is for the most part over high ground, and after climbing Burley Hill wide views are commanded over parts of Leicestershire and Lincolnshire. The country is much broken; but it is true that no one should be sent into Rutland in search of the picturesque. Parts of the county, and especially this N.E. division, belong to the great hunter's paradise, of which Melton Mowbray is the capital. Much of the ground hunted by the Quorn is

seen from the high ground above Burley.

The road gradually ascends from Oakham, and on approaching Burley the view looking S. and S.W. is really fine—no doubt the finest in Rutland. The woods of Burley are deep and rich, and the tower of Oakham Church rises well in the middle distance.

**Burley-on-the-Hill** (G. H. Finch, Esq., M.P.) is one of the most important houses in the county, and is

certainly the most conspicuous. Its long, many-windowed front is seen far and wide, and in such a district of low elevations this place well deserves its distinctive name. Burley passed through a long succession of owners to the Haringtons, who sold it to James I.'s Duke of Buckingham, the famous "Steenie." He raised a great mansion here, "inferior to few for the house," says Fuller (*Worthies*), "superior to all for the stable, where horses (if their *pabulum* so plenty as their *stabulum* stately) were the best accommodated in England. . . . But this Burley was since demolished in our civil war." A small garrison had been placed in the house by the Parliamentarian army, which at last, fearing an attack from the Royalists, and knowing themselves too weak for resistance, set fire to the house and abandoned it. The stable alone remained. There is a plan of the house in John Thorpe's book at the Soane Museum. The house was a ruin when it was sold by Charles II.'s Duke to Daniel Finch, Earl of Nottingham. He rebuilt Burley in its present form on an extravagant Palladian pattern, with large useless colonnaded quadrants projecting from the front. The family of Finch afterwards inherited the older title of Winchelsea; and although Burley has passed from the head of the house, it remains in possession of the same race. The park covers more than 1000 acres, and contains some fine old trees. The house is vast, but has little to recommend it architecturally. It contains some good old tapestry, and there are a few portraits of interest.

The *Church* of the Holy Cross, which closely adjoins the house, has been well restored, and is interesting. It consists of W. tower, nave with N. and S. aisles, and chancel with aisles terminating in the same line. The nave, of four bays, is Trans. and E. E. The N.

arcade, with round piers and arches, and capitals voluted, with a little leafage, is Trans.-Norm. On the S. side the piers are lighter, the capitals have the nail-head, and the arches are pointed. The square-headed clerestory is an addition. The tower arch is early Dec., and there is a small Dec. W. window. The square-headed aisle-windows are of a good Dec. type. The chancel has been much renovated, but three pointed arches, carried on round piers with plain capitals, open to the aisle on either side. The E. window, of Dec. character, is filled with modern glass, and serves as the memorial of George, 9th Earl of Winchelsea and Nottingham. The reredos below has figures of the Saviour and six Apostles. In the S. aisle is a monument, with kneeling figure by *Chantrey*, for Lady Charlotte Finch (d. 1813), and another piece of modern sculpture, with figures of cherubs and angels, for the wife of G. H. Finch (d. 1865). On the floor, E. of the tower-arch, are the much-mutilated figures of a knight and lady, temp. Henry VI.; the lower part of his figure is broken. On the slab is what seems to be designed for a string of beads. There was a Roman settlement here, and here in 1381 the Bishop of Norwich defeated the Norfolk insurgents of Litester, who is supposed to have been in communication with Wat Tyler. 2 m. beyond Burley is the village of

**Cottesmore**, once famous for the kennels of the Cottesmore Hunt, which have been removed to Ashwell, near Oakham (see Rte. 1). The *Church* of St. Nicholas (restored) is Dec. and Perp., with a fine W. tower and spire (the latter broached and angle-ribbed). The interior, with wide nave and chancel, is striking. The whole seems Dec., including the wide chancel arch, but there have been some



curious and puzzling changes. The first arch (from the E.) on the N. side is a little lower than the rest, and a mass of wall intervenes between it and the arch adjoining. Piers and arches, however, seem of one date; but there are indications in the masonry where the lower arcade joined the work eastward. Possibly the eastern portion represents part of an older wall, in which an attempt was made to work the Dec. arcade. On the failure of this, the rest of the arcade may have been built from the ground and higher. The tower-arch is not in the centre of the nave. At the N. side is a huge square buttress, with the lower angles chamfered off. A short arch is carried to this buttress from the last bay of the nave-arcade. The tower must therefore be earlier (though not much) than the present nave. The chancel is mainly Perp., but retains some earlier fragments. The font (E. E. ?) has a remarkable base, with the Crucifixion on one side and a bishop with pastoral staff on the other. On the exterior, note the S. doorway with Norm. zigzag moulding which must have belonged to the earlier church. A cornice of small heads and grotesques (Dec.) runs round aisles and clerestory. The manor of Cottesmore belonged to the Beauchamps, Earls of Warwick, until the reign of Elizabeth.

To the N. of Cottesmore (1 m.) is the village of **Barrow**, and  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. further is **Market Overton**, situated on a height close to the Leicester-shire border. The *Church* of St. Peter and St. Paul is chiefly an E. E. edifice with a Norm. arch in the W. tower, on the exterior of which is a sun-dial said to have been given to Sir Isaac Newton. The font is early.

2 m. further N.E. from Market Overton is **Thistleton** ( $1\frac{1}{4}$  m. from South Witham Stat. in Lincoln-

shire). The *Church* of St. Nicholas is a small edifice with an apsidal chancel. A large number of Roman coins have been found here as well as at Market Overton, and it is presumed there must have been a Roman camp in the neighbourhood. A Roman well still exists in a field about  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. from the village.

The road from Cottesmore proceeds to **Greetham**, a scattered village, where the *Church* of St. Mary is conspicuous for its noble Dec. tower and spire. The base-mouldings of the tower are especially fine. The two lower stories are massive, and are lighted only by the W. window and small foiled openings in the second story. There is no W. door. The buttresses are excellent. The broach-spire is angled off from the top of these buttresses; a row of heads serves as a corbel-table at the base. There are three tiers of spire lights, and large, fine belfry windows, traceried. The whole may date from about 1320, and is an unusually good example. Within, the nave-arcade, with lofty and light arches, is Dec., and a sort of transept has been projected on the S. side. In the N. aisle are good Dec. (curvilinear) windows; and at the E. end, high in the wall, is a small shallow niche, with a base of open flowers, perhaps intended for a figure. The chancel has two lancets on the S. side, and on the sill of one is laid the fragment of a sepulchral stone or cross, with interlaced work. The font is E. E., and curious. The manor of Greetham belonged to the Beauchamps until the reign of Richard II. The church was attached to the priory of the Holy Sepulchre at Warwick.

2 m. beyond Greetham the main road (the Roman road, Ermine Street) from Stamford to Newark is crossed, and **Stretton** (Street-town) is reached. The small *Church*

of St. Nicholas (restored in 1881). The nave arcade of two bays has been rich E. E., with foliated capitals; the piers clustered, with smaller shafts, which for the most part have been broken away; the arches round, with ribbed mouldings. The chancel arch is carried on brackets, with heads and nail-head ornament. There are two lancets in the chancel, and a late Dec. E. window; a square ambry in N. wall. In the S. a piscina and Easter sepulchre (?). The Norm. font is a rude, square block. The rood-loft steps remain at E. end of N. arch, and close by are the piscina and bracket of an altar. A transeptal projection has been added, N. and S. The S. porch, chiefly E. E., has some Norm. portions.

Leaving "Stretton in the street, where shrews meet"—an ancient saying which belongs to this place— $1\frac{1}{4}$  m., through lanes, leads to **Clipsham**, a scattered village, situated rather prettily in a broken, partly wooded country. The parish is famous for the oolitic stone which is quarried close on the border of the county, about 1 m. from the church. The stone belongs to the same beds, and is of the same character, as that quarried at Ketton (Rte. 1). Clipsham has an excellent village *Church*, dedicated to St. Mary, restored at considerable cost, and in very good order. It consists of W. tower, nave with aisles, chancel and N. chancel aisle. The tower has arches opening to the aisles N. and S. The nave arcade, of three bays (exclusive of the tower bay), is late Norm. on the N. side, with low round piers and overhanging cushioned capitals. The westernmost arch has an enriched outer moulding of rather unusual design, and is believed to have been originally over the Norm. W. doorway. On the S. side the arcade is

E. E., with round piers and octangular capitals, on which is the nail-head. The arches are round and plainly chamfered. The font is Norm., a round bowl, with small lozenged ornaments. The aisle windows S. are Dec. and square-headed. In the S. wall is a remarkable piscina with projecting basin, and open tracery in the head of the arch. There are brackets with heads on either side of the E. window. The windows of the N. aisle, still Dec., differ from those opposite, and have a peculiar tracery. At the E. end, an arch (early Dec.?) carried on brackets, which terminate in heads (very noticeable), opens to the N. aisle of chancel. The tower arches are early Dec.; and at the W. end is a single trefoil-headed lancet. The present chancel arch is carried on a short triple shaft, with the buckle ornament at the terminations. Two broad arches divide the aisle from the chancel. There are small heads at the intersections and at the crown of each arch. The roof is modern. There is an elaborately carved modern reredos (of wood), having in the centre the Last Supper (Leonardo's), the Ascension, and the Transfiguration, on either side, and beyond again the Nativity and the Repose in Egypt. On the *exterior* a cornice with the ball-flower and other ornaments, carved above the aisle windows. Short, good buttresses rise between. The ball-flower appears again round the E. window of the S. aisle. All this work is early Dec. The tower and spire (which require considerable repair) are also Dec. The unique broach-spire rises from the low tower with a peculiar arrangement hardly to be made intelligible without illustrations. All the spire lights have crosses.

Just beyond Clipsham the N.E. boundary of Rutland is reached.



## ROUTE 4.

## STAMFORD TO STRETTON.

(ROAD. 8 m.)

The road from Stamford represents a portion of the ancient *Earmine Street* (Earminga Stræt = the road of the fen-men, from the Norse *eorme*, bog-earth) which ran from London to Lincoln. This portion of it, at any rate, was adopted by the Romans, if it be not of Roman origin. Roman relics have been found on or near its course; and the Roman camp of Great Casterton is still conspicuous where the road, 2 m. from Stamford, crosses the little River Gwash (hence the place is sometimes called Bridge Casterton).

Great Casterton was certainly a station of some importance, although it cannot be identified with any station of the Itineraries. The camp lay toward the river, on the N.E. of Casterton church. On two sides the stream of the Gwash (more considerable, it is likely, in early days than at present) seems to have formed the boundary. On the others a deep trench and bank are still remaining. The form is square. Some Roman coins have been found here, but in no great quantity. The Church of St. Peter and St. Paul is E. E. throughout and curious. The nave is of two bays only, with round piers and capitals, and responds enriched with leafage. The arches are round-headed (a peculiarity in this district, where the round-headed arch was retained after the full development of E. E. — see Clipsham and Stretton, Rte. 3). There is a clerestory of circular lights. At the E. end of the aisles

[Rutland.]

is a lancet—the other windows are debased. At the E. end of the S. aisle are brackets on either side of the lancet, and extending from the sill of the window is a broad stone slab—the purpose of which is not clear. The well developed chancel has two lancets at the E. end, and a plain three-light window on the S. side. The porch is E. E. Under a low arched recess in the wall of the S. aisle is the effigy of a priest, eucharistically vested. *Exterior*, on the S. side of nave, is a sepulchral recess, with an effigy, of which the head and feet only are sculptured—a type not very usual. It is apparently the figure of a priest, but is much worn away. The bracket of a window above displays a curious example of female head-dress (temp. Henry III.?). At the E. end of the church the lancets have side shafts with foliated capitals. Above, in a niche, is a sculptured figure which seems to represent St. Paul, with a sword in one hand, and some rounded object in the other. He is vested as a priest, and carries the maniple over the right arm. It is perhaps questionable whether this figure originally belonged to the niche. The tower is E. E. below, with a much later superstructure.

At 3 m. from Stamford a road turns off l. to **Tickencote**, where the remarkable Norm. Church of St. Peter must on no account be left unvisited by the archæologist. In spite of a restoration (in itself a singular work, considering the time

at which it was effected), and of consequent changes, it remains one of the most striking examples of late and enriched Norman in this part of England.

Tickencote ("the goats' hamlet," *tyccen*, A.-S. = a goat) passed, in the reign of Henry VIII., to a junior branch of the Wingfields of Upton, near Northampton, and is still held by this family. Of its earlier owners, it is only known that it was held by the Countess Judith at the time of the Domesday Survey, and by a certain Britius Daneys, in the reign of Edward II.

The Church of St. Peter was built circ. 1130. It is small, and consisted originally only of nave and chancel, divided by a wonderfully enriched arch. The nave had been added at some unknown period, and had (it is said) fallen much into decay, when the whole fabric was restored and partly rebuilt in 1792 at the sole expense (as the stone over the entrance door records) of Miss Eliza Wingfield, who only lived to see the completion of her pious work, and the reopening of the church. This "repair" comprised a complete rebuilding of the nave, and some lesser changes which it is not easy to distinguish. The Norm. chancel and arch were carefully preserved, and the new work was designed in imitation. Of this it must be said that it is so good as almost to deceive the practised archæologist. The ancient designs have been carefully copied, and, now that time has softened the modern masonry, the whole church has assumed a harmony which is very striking. As a work of the 18th cent., this rebuilding seems almost without parallel. Drawings and prints exist, which show the condition of the church before the restoration; and from these it appears that the general outline is preserved. The tower on the S. side, and the vestry on the N., are additions. There was, how-

ever, a small Norm. porch, where the tower now stands, a drawing of which is still preserved in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, among Dr. Stukeley's sketches.

*Exterior.*—The part which deserves most attention on the outside is the E. gable, which presents a careful reproduction of the old Norm. façade. The recesses, windows, billet mouldings, and arcadings are exactly restored from the old building, and so are the circular buttresses, which are a distinguished feature of Norm. work. There are two E. windows, but only the lower one lights the chancel. The upper one gives light to a priest's chamber in the roof, which formerly existed, running over the whole length of the chancel, and a corresponding window existed in the W. wall, towards the nave. This is a rare and curious arrangement. On the S. side of the chancel are foundations of a chapel discovered in 1890.

*Interior.*—The most striking parts are the very rich chancel arch and the vaulted chancel. The arch is a remarkable specimen of rich Norm. work, having five members, each enriched with boldly carved mouldings, each of which has a different and elaborate ornamentation, including a leaf-like ornament on the outer order, grotesques, heads, and zigzags. In spite of the massive nature of the whole work the foundations have given way, and the arch, always of a depressed form, has broken on the l. hand, and the pillars fallen back on each side. The vaulting of the chancel is semi-circular, and divides the roof into six compartments by massive ribs, the edges of which are ornamented with treble zigzags, which is repeated round the arch of the E. window. This appears to be a careful restoration, and the old stones are replaced wherever available. The boss in the centre of the ribs bears some carving, which



appears to be a monk's head and two muzzled bears, referring to the abbots of Osulveston or Owston, by whom probably the church was built. The stairs in the thickness of the wall at the N.E. corner, which led from the chancel to the priest's chamber above, were removed in 1792. Traces of colouring are to be seen on the chancel arch and on the arch above the E. window. On the S. side, under a recess, is a wooden effigy of a knight in armour of the time of Edward III., probably representing Sir Rowland le Daneys. The altar table is late Jacobean, with bulged legs, and was the gift of Lady Ann Beverly in 1627. The font is a beautiful specimen of 13th-cent. work, and was placed in its present shape and position at the last alterations of the church. The nave contains little worthy of note. One fragment of old glass is preserved in the W. window—a head of the Saviour. The whole was re-roofed and re-seated in 1872. The western part of the building, including the porch, with the chamber over it (a picturesque arrangement), is entirely modern.

W. of the church is *Tickencote Hall* (Major J. M. Wingfield).

A cross-road leads from Tickencote to **Empingham** (2½ m. W.). The village stands pleasantly in the valley of the Gwash, in the midst of fine trees. The fine *Church* of St. Peter has a massive W. tower, nave, with aisles, transepts, and chancel. It is E. E., but altered in parts in the Perp. period. The nave is of four bays, with round piers and round-headed arches S., and pointed arches N. Both are E. E. (compare the round-headed arches at Great Casterton). The transepts project one bay. In the N. transept are Perp. windows with remains of stained glass. There have been two altars, one under the E.

window of the transept, the other under the window at the end of the aisle. The piscina of each remains. The S. transept has E. E. lancets and two piscinæ in the E. wall, one, which has been gracefully foiled, and another in the S. wall. The windows in the chancel are E. E. There is a range of three sedilia, with round-headed arches, and a double piscina with trefoiled heading. The western tower is early Dec., but following very closely on the E. E. of the nave. The W. door is fine; its pointed arch is enclosed by a larger one. The shafts of the outer arch are ringed, the inner has the ball-flower. The tower, well buttressed, is of four stories. In the third is panelling, with foiled headings; in the fourth are the belfry-lights. Massive pinnacles rise direct from the sides of the tower. There is a short spire, with crocketed ribs and good spire-lights. The church was thoroughly restored 1894-5.

The manor of Empingham belonged to the family of Normanville until the reign of Henry III., when it passed by marriage to Edmund de Passely. The church was from a very early period attached to Lincoln Cathedral, but is now in the diocese of Peterborough. There is still a stall (now "honorary"), called the Prebendal Stall of Empingham, in Lincoln Cathedral.

At **Whitwell**, 2 m. W. of Empingham, is a small early Dec. *Church*, dedicated to St. Michael (restored in 1881). There is a good double-gabled bell-turret at the W. end. In the S. wall of the chancel is a low-side window, in the quatrefoil of which a fragment of old glass, with the Crucifixion, remains.

Normanton woods are seen on the l. in proceeding from Empingham to Whitwell.

From Whitwell it is 2 m. N. to the

village of **Exton**. It may also be reached from Tickencote by proceeding along the main road and turning W. into the park of Exton, about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  m. from Stamford. In either case the approach to the wooded park is pleasant, after the more open and comparatively bare country. This part of Rutland, however, is not flat. The ground is much varied, and the villages, generally in the hollows, are well surrounded by trees. The land is rich, and shows a high condition of agriculture.

*Exton Park* (Earl of Gainsborough) closely adjoins the village, and the church is in the park, at no great distance from the house. Exton (in Domesday Book, *Exentune*) belonged at the time of the Survey to the Countess Judith, and passed with her daughter and heiress, Maud, to David of Scotland, Earl of Huntingdon. It afterwards came to the Bruces, and at last to the Haringtons, who held it for nearly six centuries. They sold it to Sir Baptist Hicks; and with his heiress it came to the Noels, the head of which family is the Earl of Gainsborough. The *old hall* of Exton, close to the church, was Elizabethan, and was almost destroyed by fire in 1810. The actual hall, and some other portions remain, but not in habitable condition. The picturesque front has an open balustrade between gables, and some good transomed windows. Within, there is nothing of interest. The *modern house*, which stands on lower ground somewhat farther to the N., is Elizabethan in character, and picturesque, with tourelles, and a Rom. Cath. chapel with apse, projecting eastward. Much of the old house was pulled down for the stonework of this chapel, which is important, and of some size. The house contains some portraits and pictures, but of no great interest. The park, which is well-wooded,

and contains a large sheet of water, is said to be 8 miles in circuit.

*Exton Church* of St. Peter and St. Paul, with a fine tower and spire, is interesting in itself, and also for the elaborate display of Harington and Noel monuments. It consists of W. tower, nave with aisles, and chancel. The eastern bays of the aisles are transeptal, and are divided by arches from the aisles, as at Empingham. The arcade is Dec. on the S. side, and somewhat earlier—perhaps it should be called E. E.—on the N. The arches on either side are lofty, and the leafage on the S. side has the natural character of the Dec. period. The chancel was “struck by a fire-ball,” and has been rebuilt, with a Dec. E. window. The roofs are new; and in the nave, between the line of clerestory lights, are hung a long series of Noel banners and monumental armour, some of which is of great interest, making the church one of the most striking in the county. The font, early Dec., is octagonal, with an arcade ornamenting the side, and heads at the angles.

The monuments were re-arranged after the destruction of the old chancel. The earliest is an altar-tomb of alabaster with floriated cross, on the N. side of the altar. The inscription runs—“Vous qe par icy passez—pur lalme Nichol Greve prie—son corps gist de south ceste pere—par la mort qe taunt est fere—en la cynkanntisme an mort luy prest—mercy luy fate Jesu Crist. Amen.” There is no date, but the tomb may be about 1450. Under the tower is the tomb, with effigies in alabaster, of John Harington and Alice his wife, dating early in the 16th cent. Here is also a graceful recumbent figure (asleep) of Anne, wife of Thos. Bruce, Lord Kinloss (d. 1627, aged 22). At the S. end of the S. transept is the fine Elizabethan monument of Robert



Keylway, a lawyer, who was father of Anne, Lady Harington. He lies on his back, robed, and in front kneel his daughter and her husband, John, Lord Harington. At the side is a small figure, in gown and cap, of a child who died young. In the N. transept is a grand and pompous monument, by *Grinling Gibbons*, for Baptist Noel, Viscount Campden (d. 1683, aged 71). This Lord Campden was eminent for his loyalty to Charles I., his conjugal affection to four wives, and his paternal indulgence to nineteen children. Two full-length figures appear at an altar, and there are many bas-reliefs of virtues. The whole was raised, at a cost of 1000*l.*, by John, third son of the Viscount, and is an excellent example of the period. Opposite is the monument of his fifth son James (d. 1681, aged 18), "free from the age's grand debauchery." He appears in wig and flowing cravat. At the end of the N. aisle is a mural monument, by *Nollekens*, for Lieut.-Gen. Bennett Noel (d. 1766), a figure leaning on an urn, on which is a bust of Gen. Noel. In the chancel is a monument, by *Nollekens*, for Baptist Noel, 4th Earl of Gainsborough; and opposite, in a recess, the Jacobean monument of Sir James Harington and his wife Lucy, who both died in the year 1591.

The rectory of Exton was given

by the Bruces to the Cluniac priory of St. Andrew in Northampton, to which it belonged until the Dissolution.

In proceeding from Tickencote along the line of ancient road (the Ermine Street), now known as Horne Lane, at 5 m. from Stamford, is a place called "*Bloody Oaks*." This was the scene (March 13th, 1470) of the fight known as that of "Loosecoat Field" (because the fugitives flung off their coats for greater speed), between Edward IV. and the Lancastrians under Sir Robert Welles and Sir Thomas de la Launde, both of whom were afterwards executed at Stamford. The records of their attainder state that the battle was fought in "Hornfield, in Empingham." The village of Horne, which lay to the W., has utterly disappeared, church and all.

2 m. N.E. is the village of **Pickworth**, said to have been destroyed by the battle. Nothing remains of the ancient church excepting a porch.

At 8 m. from Stamford is **Stretton** (see Rte. 3), and 2 m. further the road quits the county and enters Lincolnshire.

## ROUTE 5.

### STAMFORD TO ESSENDINE.

(GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY. 4 m.)

Rail. Stations.  
2½ m. **Ryhall**.  
4 m. **Essendine**.

Stamford by the Water Street Stat.  
at

This short line connects Stamford with the Great Northern Railway from London to York. Leaving

2½ m. **Ryhall**. The greater portion of the *Church* of St. John the Evangelist is E. E., with a fine tower

and spire of the same date. The stair-turret is set on at the angle, like a great buttress. The belfry-lights in the uppermost stage are enriched with dog-tooth, as are the lights of the breach-spire. The E. E. nave arcade has circular piers, with lofty arches. (At the point of intersection of the westernmost arches, N. side, is a curious grotesque—a crouching figure of St. Christopher—with the arms broken off; round the head is a coronet of fleurs-de-lys.) The windows of aisles and of the clerestory are Perp. The wide chancel arch is E. E.; the chancel windows Perp. The font is E. E. In the chancel is a pretty monument “to the happy memory of Samuel Barker, a child of admirable sweetness of temper, of an erect and comely body, of a most pregnant wit, even beyond what could be imagined at the age of 2 years and 15 days. Died Oct. 30, 1696.” On the *Exterior* remark the fine buttresses, and a Perp. cornice with grotesques, like that at Oakham. There is a rich S. porch, of which the outer portal has a foliated “bordering.” Above is a parvise, erected by a Crusader. This porch, with the aisles and chancel, are clearly rebuildings or additions of the early Perp. period; at which time Oakham church (Rte. 1) was also much altered.

At the W. end of the N. aisle some traces were formerly pointed out as having been part of the cell of St. Tibba, a kinswoman of Peada of Mercia, who died *circa* 690. The “cell” must be consigned to the same region of conjecture as the “oratory” of Peada at Tickencote (Rte. 4), and as the “stout knight Harding of Ryall,” who, according to the false Ingulf, led the Stamford men against the Danes in 870; but St. Tibba was especially revered at Ryhall. She is not the same as St. Ebba, the virgin-saint of North-

umbria; but, according to local tradition, lived and died in her cell at Ryhall. Her relics were, it is said, afterwards carried to Peterborough. She was the patroness of falconers, and “this Tibb (saith John Ross) hath this special bountie, that if your hawke were ravinishe, or had soared from you, you might, by offering of a hawke in wax, or some other present, reelayme or recover him.” (*Wright's ‘Rutland.’*) The hunter's cry, “Tantivy,” has been explained as an invocation of St. Tibba—like “tawdry” from St. Audrey; but this is more than doubtful. Traditions of her still linger at Ryhall, where it is said that she was a queen, and that she used to bathe in “Tibbal's-hill spring.”

The village of **Little Casterton** stands on the S. side of the river Gwash,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m. W. from Ryhall Stat. The Church of All Saints is a small E. E. building. In the chancel is a brass, with effigies of Sir Thomas Burton (d. 1381) and his wife.

*Tolethorpe Hall* (C. O. Eaton, Esq.) is a 16th-cent. house, with a gatehouse, but the whole has been modernised. Near to it is a chalybeate spring.

**4 m. Essendine** (Junct. Stat. on the main line of the G. N. Rly.). There was at this place a castle, of which the surrounding moat remains. At the time of the Domesday Survey it was held by Walter Espic or D'Espic. It then descended through the noble families of De Bussen, De Builly, De Vipont (temp. John), De Leyburne, De Crumbewell, De Spencers, the Nevills, to King Richard III., whose Queen was Anne, daughter of the Earl of Warwick, the King Maker. The estate and castle reverted to the Crown upon the attainder of the Duke of Clarence. In the 36th year of Henry VIII. they were granted by the Crown



to Richard Cecil, Yeoman of the Wardrobe to the King. He (R. C.) in the same reign settled them upon his son and heir apparent William Cecil, afterwards Lord Treasurer Burghley, who by his will, dated March 1st, in the 40th year of Queen Elizabeth, expressed a desire that this estate should remain as a place for his second son Robert, created Baron Cecil of Essington, in the county of Rutland, a title since merged into the Marquisate of Salisbury. The estate passed by purchase in 1816 to Mrs. Isabella Hankey, and Rodolph Alexander Hankey, Esq., is the personal possessor. Within the moat stands the small *Church* of St. Mary, with an

early Norm. or possibly Saxon S. doorway. There is an enclosing arch, with zigzag moulding. The actual portal is rudely squared, and the sides and tympanum have been covered with ornament. The sculpture of the sides can hardly be distinguished. In the tympanum is the Saviour, beneath a window, with adoring angels in flat carving, like Saxon work on Barnack church tower.

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*The Route by Road.*

The road from Stamford runs on the l. side of the rly. through Ryhall ( $2\frac{3}{4}$  m.), to Essendine ( $5\frac{1}{4}$  m.).





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 Pop. : 2,540.  
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Pop. : 28,653.

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 Pop.: 7,735.  
 Inns: *Three Swans H.*;  
*Angel H.*  
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 Pop.: 87,021.  
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 Inns: *George H.*; *An-  
 gel H.*  
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 ,, HALL, 56.  
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 Pop.: 2,404.  
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Pop.: 30,870.

Inns: *Great Northern H.*,  
 at the Stat.; *Angel H.*,  
 Narrow Bridge St.; *Grand*  
*H.*, Wentworth St.; *Golden*  
*Lion H.*, Bridge St.

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 Eastern; London and  
 North-Western; and Mid-  
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Burnt Walls (*Isannavaria*), 135.  
Burroughs, 99.  
Carr Dykes, 82.  
Castor (*Durobrivæ*), 63.  
Chesterton, 64.  
Clifford Hill, 17.  
Cotterstock, 56.  
Dallington, 13.  
Duston, 14.  
Ermine Street, 64, 88, 241.  
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Horestone Meadows, 131.  
Hunsborough Camp, 12.  
Irchester Camp, 175.  
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Oster Hill, 124.  
Oundle, 51.  
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*Horse Shoe H.*

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Pop.: 12,460.  
Inn: *Wheatsheaf H.*  
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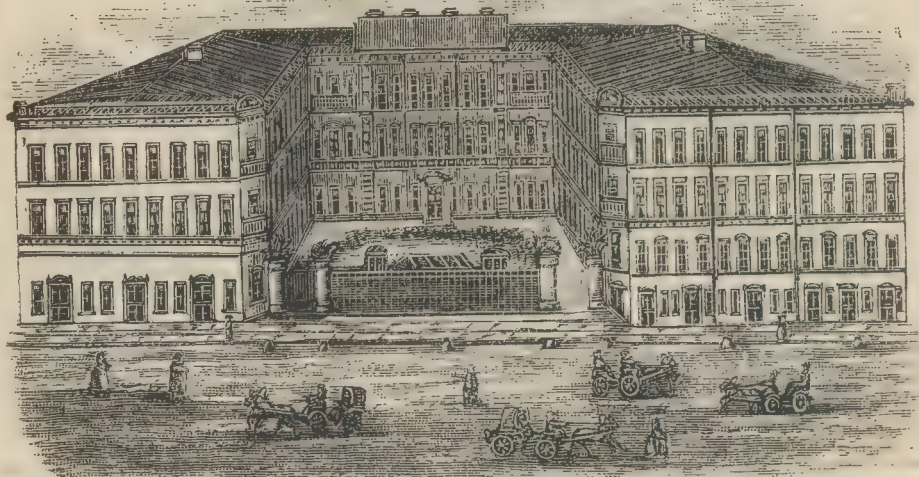
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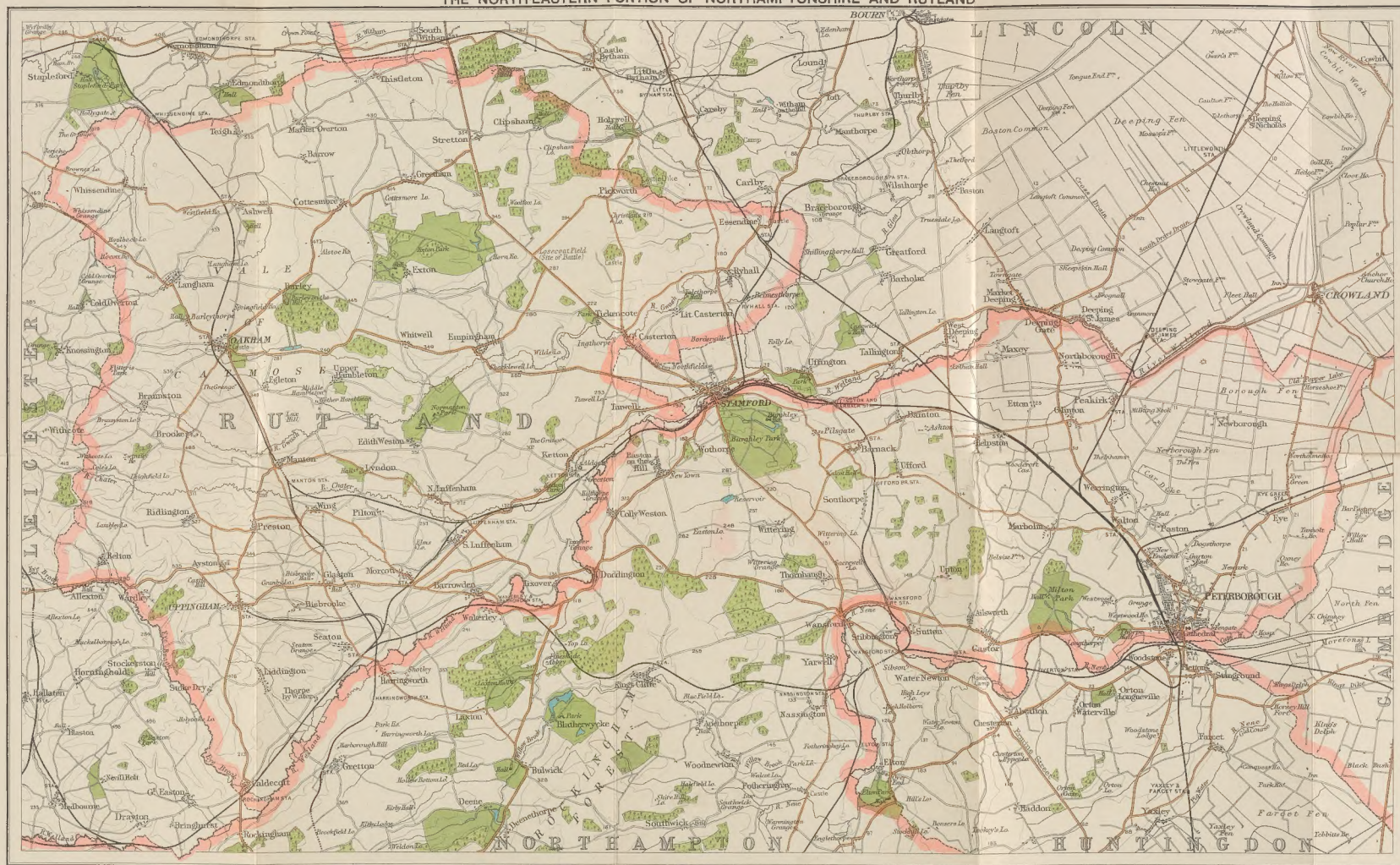
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